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(Must read) Author's note and rules

Welcome all, to the amazing sequel of Your Destiny. This story, like the predecessor, follows many cats that struggled to survive extinction and have now, formed their own clans. But with new Clans, comes unforeseen rivalry, revenge and turmoil.

The Warrior cat concept rightfully belongs to Erin Hunter, although none of her characters are used throughout the duration of the story.

This story is similar to regular warrior cat stories **except** all the characters, are based off of you and other fans!

What is this strange magic, you may ask?

Well. This is a never-been-done-before type of interactive-roleplay, that allows it to be a progressive and enjoyable story and for you to participate.

As example. Wattpader entered their original OC's last book and I made the story revolve around them. Cats with entirely different personalities were thrown together to create new clans!

Unfortunately the Roleplay aspect has ended with the end of this novel. Your Legacy is completed and sadly, there are no interactive roleplays to join.

However, the trilogy and the story within is still available for everyone! Your dedication, votes, comments and insightful input are greatly appreciated. Enjoy!

Clan Information

[image]

This includes political spoilers. I recommend searching for the cat of your cat, and only that, unless your caught up.

MountainClan- clan located on a long forestry hill that leads down to the lake shore. There are little to no streams locate on their territory but they have the largest mountain.
Current leader: Flamestar

Laws: (Created by EpicCroft)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats can have a mate and kits if there is another able and trained medicine cat in the clan.

- If two cats from separate clans have kits, the kits will stay in the mother's clan until their 5th moon, where they must decide which of their parent's clan to join.

- A she cat does not need to reveal who the father of her kits is. It is her choice whether to share the personal information or not.

- If any cat forces them self upon another without consent, there shall be fierce punishment. Only banishment if the victim requests it.

Foreign affairs:
- Show mercy to all other cats, especially innocent ones.

- Enemy or allied borders will be respected at all times. A cat may only cross with permission from a leader or an urgent matter of clan security.

- A patrol is sent to the Twolegplace every 6 moons to search for cats to join the Clans. For every cat deserves a chance at the chance to follow the Warrior code.

Domestic affairs:
- If prey is scarce, cats eat in the following order: Queens, Kits, Elders, Warriors, and apprentices.

- All cats choose loyalty to MountainClan or leave. Loyalty is not forced upon any cat.

- Kits will become apprentices at 5 moons. They cannot participate in battle until 7 moons.

Harsh offenses worth strict punishment:
- Murder of the any sort, to any cat, is not permitted. In the case of a very dangerous cat, if leader allows, Warriors are permitted to break cat's leg and leave them in the Twolegplace there.

- Fights between Warriors of the same clan will receive apprentice duties for a moon. If they do not learn their lesson and severely harm another clan mate, they could face exile.

- Harming or bullying of a non-hostile cat is forbidden.

StormClan- This clan is the 1st rank of an empire. They were formerly DarkClan until a new leader Thunderstar took charge. They live among the open fields where jagged rocks jut out of the earth. However, they have taken over MountainClan territory and may soon have the other clan's also.
Current leader- Thunderstar

Laws: (Created by CeRosette and EpicCroft)

Duties:
Warriors- their purpose is to the fight and protect the clan. They need to be muscular, fit, brave and obedient.

Hunters- their purpose is to hunt for the clan. They need to be fast, lean and quiet.

Messengers- their purpose is to run only borders from province to province, delivering messages from the head Clan and head leader.

Queens- their purpose is to birth and care for the young of the clan. This task is secular to females who become pregnant.

Medicine Cats- purpose is to heal, and counsel the clan. They act as a bridge between the real and spiritual worlds.

Elders- they are responsible for teaching clan history, authorized by leadership. And they do in clan chores.

Breeding:
- Mate must be authorized by the queen of the clan.

-Mate must be the opposite gender, so that they may supply kits.

- Medicine cats are not allowed to take part in mating or caring for kits.

- Mates must mate for life. A mate may not leave their mate and kits. Families stick together.

- A Tom cannot force himself upon a she cat that is not his mate.

Battle:
- Show no mercy to enemies.

- If a group is defeated, rebellious toms and non-pregnant she cats will be executed. Pregnant he cats will be offered a second chance. The rest of the group will be offered peace, if they become a province under StormClan, following its laws.

- If one of the clan kills the enemy's leader, the battle is over. The enemy will then be offered peace.

Training:
- Kits will become apprentices at 5 moons. However, the queens must teach them basic necessities for their future training.

- At five moons, they will have the apprentice ceremony. This is a time where the ultimate leader of StormClan, will decide the kit's future duty and province. Province placement is essential to rank.

- Any kits that are useless, talentless, and cannot be fed will be put

out of their misery.

Leadership:
- The future leader of the empire may only be a direct descendant of Thunderstar and Dapplestone. An heir must be sought out and secured regularly.

- The first born descendant will be first in line, whether Tom or she cat.

- Deputies are not succeeders of the current leader. They are leaders of separate provinces, and very noble cats. If the descendants of Dapplestone and Thunderstar ceased to exist or were not able, the most formidable deputy would take charge.

- Impeachment of a deputy is 3/4 of clan.

- Leadership impeachment must be unanimous throughout all clans and provinces.

Provinces:
- The provinces shall be attended to when their kits are at apprentice age. At this time, the leader or deputy, must inspect the new offspring. The leadership then decided which rank each will be placed into.

- 1st rank will always be StormClan.

- 2nd rank may vary between CaveClan and LakeClan, depending on loyalty to StormClan. Whichever one is lower is the third rank.

CaveClan- Clan that lives in a cave to the northeast, and take many of forest streams.
Current leader: Cinderstar

Laws: (Created by XxRandomKatxX)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats are not allowed to have a mate or kits. There will be punishment for breaking this law

-Mates from different clans are allowed, but if the cat becomes pregnant, the two cats must decide which Clan they will live in.

-Apprentices must not have mates or kits till they become Warriors. (No punishment if this happens. It is a law that just should not be broken.)

Battle:
-Only kill a cat when necessary.

-You must fight with you life. You do not give up or give in, even if it is a sibling for former friend. The Clan always comes first.

Apprentice Training:
-The apprentice must have at least 2 1/2 moons of hunting training, 2 1/2 moons of battle training, and 1 moon of training in medicine. That will be just the basic herbs you might need if someone is injured. They will need to memorize them.

-If a apprentice from outside the Clan comes in, instead of becoming a warrior at 12 moons, they will train for 2 extra moons to ensure they are properly trained.

Warriors:
-Must always be willing to help anyone in the Clan despite any grudges against the Cat.

-If a cat is injured severely, they will first apply the basics they learned during training, then report to the medicine cat as soon as possible. (Those who are already warriors will train for a moon in herbs.)

-Greatest respect must go the Leader, Deputy, Elders, and Medicine cat. They are often wiser, and arguing won't be tolerated.

A simple hit to the head(not extremely hard, but hard enough to hurt.) and a warning will be given the first time.

The second time, they will be given Den Clean out duty for a moon.

The third time, the previous punishment, shame from the whole Clan, and every other cat must eat before you, is punishment.

If it continues, the punishments will continue to become more sever. Eventually, if warrior, name will be striped and he/she will become an apprentice again. If apprentice, he/she will have extended apprentice ship. If this still continues to happen, cat will be banished.

LakeClan- clan that lives southeast of the lake, on a marshy area with many streams.
Current leader: Leopardstar

Laws: (Created by EpicCroft)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats may have kits with a Tom inside the clan.

- Mates from other clans are allowed. The parents however must resolve the issue.

- If a Tom forces himself upon a she cat, the Tom will be killed.

Domestic affairs:
- Only a she cat, may become leader. Only tom can become deputy. However, the female leader must remain chaste.

- Kits are made apprentices at 6 moons. Drowning is too much of a risk for young LakeClan cats, they must be strong.

- The head Queen, takes a leadership role in the Clan as medicine cats do. They advise the leader on how the young are fairing and such. Their job is to make sure every cat is prepared and protect them if not.

- Fights will be punished.

Foreign affairs:
- LakeClan must try to stay out of other clan affairs.

- LakeClan does not fight any wars unless homelands are attacked. They must try to avoid war at all costs. (AKA: Switzerland)

- Do not engage in fights with other clan's antagonizing cats.

RogueClan- a small nomad clan. Most of the clans see them as a troublesome enemy because they don't believe in laws or borders. They frequently "steal" prey and go through other clan's territories. They seem to have no permanent home.

Laws: (Created by EpicCroft)
Breeding:
- A mate is not limited to **gender**, **clan**, or **status**. They must love each other, however.

Foreign affairs:
- Don't engage any other clans unless needed. Always run and be clever.

Domestic affairs:
- Everyone helps the group. No one is stereotyped by name, status, blood or gender.

- Fighting in the clan, is not permitted. The Clan is a true family where others care for each other.

- RogueClan does not believe in LightClan and do not receive the nine lives. They see it as cheating life.

- They receive honorary names from the group's elders but they are simply honorary not spiritual.

- Cats who cannot keep up with RogueClan's constant traveling and running must join another clan for their own good.

StoneClan- Clan that lives on the bear rocks, (meadow of rocks) across the lake from MountainClan territory.
Current leader: Sleetstar

Laws: (Created by CeRosette)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats cannot have a mate or kits.

- A mate from another clan is forbidden. Those who disobey this law face banishment.

- If a medicine cat is found to have conceived kits with another clan mate, both parties are banished. The child is not welcome in StoneClan, for it is of rule abashing blood.

Foreign affairs:
- If cats from un-allied cats cross StoneClan borders, they can be killed on sight. Allied cats found in the border must have a good excuse or they could face charges.

- Any cat from another clan is welcome to join StoneClan at any time. Any crimes they committed against StoneClan will be judged by the clan as a whole. Every new cat must prove themselves to earn their warrior name.

Domestic affairs:
- Kits will become apprentices at 5 moons. Parents or Warriors must teach the kits basic hunting techniques before then, along with clan history and behavior.

- Impeachment of deputy must be 3/4 of clan. Impeachment of leader must be unanimous.

You may share your thoughts in the comments.

Prologue

"Darkness!" The golden tabby she cat screamed, gripping the cliff's edge with her claws. Her arms burned with the effort of holding on, but she wouldn't allow herself to fall to the rocky ocean's edge below. She had to hold on, for The Clan of Light. "Please don't do this!"

"Just give up, Sunlight!" a tom with fur as black as night and eyes as cold as ice stepped towards her. He had pushed her off the cliff just moments before, and was frustrated that his adversary had not died. "DarkClan deserves to exist. LightClan is weak."

Sunlight gritted her teeth, and tried to climb up onto the rocky outcropping of the mountain. She had been a fool for agreeing to meet Darkness here, and an even bigger fool for hoping that things could go back to the way they used to be.

"How could you betray me?" Darkness yelled, stepping towards her. "We could have gotten revenge, together! Revenge against those two legs and anyone else who stood in the way of our rule. We still can."

"The humans mean us no harm," Sunlight pleaded, and tried to slide away from him, but Darkness was too fast. He lunged forward, digging his claws into her arms. "The Tribes mean us no harm," Sunlight cried out in pain, but held fast to the cliff's edge. "Please don't do this, Darkness. You'll regret it."

Darkness sneered, his eyes flaming. He leaned forward, and looked deeply into her blue eyes. Then, he whispered the infamous words that would rein in her mind for eternity.

"I regret nothing." He pushed her over the edge. Thinking quickly, Sunlight bit into his neck, dragging him with her into the nothingness of the air. *Be strong, Clan of Light.* Sunlight prayed, and closed her eyes.

Just as Sunlight's eyes closed, Thunderstar's eyes shot open and he gazed around. Did I fall asleep? He asked himself, glancing around. He was outside of camp, but he had forgotten why for a few minutes until he heard a distant sob. *Oh, yes*..

"Please, Thunderstar," the peach furred she cat pleaded. Thunderstar had just arrived above the prison made for her and he was glowering from above. He was tired of trying to get information from her. But now, he was ready to make a deal. "I have kits. They don't have anyone except for me.."

"They'll have the clan," he replied coldly. He was done with sympathy for queens. *No one had sympathy for mine*. "Sprucestrike, had agreed to let your past feuds go, Shymask. Under one condition.."

Shymask nodded her head in acknowledgment. She was at the bottom of a cavern, which was covered by a thicket of thorns. Shymask had no hope of escape, for a warrior would check on her continually. At this point, after a moon of not seeing her kits, she would do anything.

"You're going to go find the surviving MountainClan. You will join them and insist you escaped and have nowhere else to go. Then, if you see a cat that resembled Vulturestar, you'll kill him," Thunderstar replied plainly. He didn't show any care or emotion. "After that you may go back to the second province, and do then same. After all this, you will redeem your normal life. No more deals and no more worry.."

"Why them? I don't see how they pose a threat to you," Shymask stated but confused.

"They don't pose a threat," Thunderstar lied through his teeth. "I just don't want any cat resembling that traitor, anywhere in my empire."

"That's ridiculous.."

"Are you going to accept the deal? Or shall Sprucestrike and a patrol take a trip to the second province.."

"Fine! I'll do it," Shymask replied from below. At that, Thunderstar carefully but on a bare part of the thicket and threw it to the side. Then, he beckoned her out. Shymask weakly crawled out, and it took all of her strength.

"Go now. Tell Airflight when the deal is done. Don't take more then three moons.. We don't want one of them to spread their blood in the meantime.." Shymask trotted off at his words, disgusted at the leader. But he wasn't finished. He surged forward and bit her deeply on the leg then spat in her eyes. She screeched at the crunch and the pain before limping away.

"Perhaps that will speed things up..," Thunderstar chuckled and trotted back to camp. It was night, and he told Burrclaw to rest instead of guard Shymask. Little did the elder know, that it was all a charade to get him banished the next day. *Useless elders have no place in the first rank...*

"How'd it go?" Sprucestrike asked as Thunderstar crossed into the camp.

"She didn't believe me.."

"You didn't tell her about the prophecy, right?"

"Of course not. The only cats that know are Jaybird, you and I. And we are the only cats that shall ever know," Thunderstar whispered with a content grin. Sprucestrike glanced at his paws then back at him.

"Are you sure MountainClan.."

"MountainClan has no successor to Horsetail. Not a *real* one, that I know of. They shouldn't be a problem.
Tomorrow we are going to inspect the province's new offspring, then drop off Burrclaw," Thunderstar explained.

"Shame. I enjoyed his snarky remarks."

"We have no place for elders. How was your night with Ivysong?"

"She told me she's expecting kits," Speucestrike replied with a smile

and Thunderstar smiled in return. He had always hoped Sprucestrike would settle down. *His offspring will be be great additions...*

"That'll be a good season. Bluewisp is also expecting and I think she'll be our new head queen. Well, I must get to sleep. We've got an empire to rule."

"Wait.. Do your offspring fit the prophecies description?" Sprucestrike asked curiously. He knew for a fact that Thornfrost and his grandson Shadow fit the description. *Why chase down the others?* Sprucestrike wondered silently.

"Probably not.. I've never met them, but their offspring could fulfill the prophecy, and I can't allow that. Two of them are in CaveClan, so perhaps they can prove themselves... But not the one in MountainClan, he will have to go," Thunderstar replied as he toyed with the sand in his den.

"What about Thornfrost?"

"Thornfrost is on our side. I have her contained and have promised her the inheritance that Vulturestar would've had. She will stay loyal until my death, then, takeover after," Thunderstar explained in a patient tone. All of this made Sprucestrike uneasy. In the old clans, deputy would succeed leader. *So what does that mean for my family?* "And she will calm the empire significantly. She's less... *brash* then we are. She won't bring it down to death and that will earn her support. I don't know why you worry, Sprucestrike.."

"What if you have this all wrong? What if it's not one of your children, but Vulturestar's child?"

"Ah. The prophecy said an heir of the storm. You're right.. It could be any of them. Rainpool or Shadow, both? Speaking of which, Vulturestar's followers, have you imprisoned them?"

"Yes. Sleetpool, Fiereclaw, their offspring, Hollowkit, Rainpool and Twistedfoot are all in our custody.."

"Take Rainpool to LakeClan, also. Hopefully, after the surplus of

cats and the oncoming leaf-bare, she'll starve. Let the others go to CaveClan. Just because they strayed once, doesn't mean they should pay the ultimate price. I would never let those traitors back in our clan.. but, you can't blame them for being loyal to their leader. Any sight of Vulturestar?"

"None. I'm sorry," Sprucestrike replied. "Do you think he'll ever show up? It's been three moons.."

"Keep searching."

Chapter 1

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears.

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange.

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. Mentor: Nightjet

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. Kits: Dreamkit (she cat), Aloekit (she cat), and Kindlekit (Tom)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. Kits: Ivorykit (she cat) and Vinekit (she cat)

Kits:
Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.
Apprentice:

Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. Mentor: Sleetpool

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Kits: Stonekit (Tom)

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Darkkit (she cat) and Hazelkit (Tom)

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons.

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons.

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons.

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose.

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes.

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail.

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail.

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. Mentor: Inkjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Dragonstone

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Rogues and Refugees-

Kabir- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. 14 moons.

Honeysuckle- a golden and white tabby she cat with brown eyes. 58 moons.

Wilt- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. 62 moons.

Frost- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes. 15 moons.

Kaizen- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. 15 moons.

Holly- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her

pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. 35 moons.

Wish- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. 28 moons.

Whirlwind- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes.

Feather- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes.

Fern- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons.

Ebony- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 3 moons.

Frog- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes. 5 moons.

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes.

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Expecting Bushwind's kits.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Kits: Jaykit (Tom) and Ravenkit (tom)

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes.

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons.

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar

on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons.

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons.

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons.

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons.

Blackpaw woke up with a heavy heart. It pounded inside her chest violently as she glanced around the den. Leopardpaw faintly tousled beside her, but then continued to airy snoring. The other apprentices slept peacefully around her, but Cougarpaw looked as if he was swimming in his sleep.

Blackpaw quickly shook of her tensity and stood to her paws. It was just a dream. She had been having reoccurring dreams every night after her apprenticeship. A golden tabby she cat, with notable blue eyes had been filling her dreams. Then, that night, she had a dream about her and a Tom, with a pelt as dark as night and blue eyes, also. She decided she didn't wish to dwell on it anymore, for cats with strange dreams never faired well in life.

"Blackpaw, what're you doing out here so early?" Hiddencreek asked, trotting over. Only he, Inkjet, and Silverfeather seemed to be out early.

"I had a bad dream.. Can I come hunting or do I have to wait for Dragonstone?" Blackpaw asked curiously, with wide eyes. She was made apprentice two nights ago and given Dragonstone as mentor. He was fiercest warriors of the clan, so he didn't want to disappoint him.

"Sure, sweetie. I can't see why extra hunting practice would make any mentor mad," Silverfeather replied with a bright smile. She led the way and Hiddencreek followed, and Inkjet lagged behind to speak with her.

"You know, Blackpaw. If you just wanted to beat the others, you could've just said so," Inkjet sneered with a knowing grin. Blackpaw scoffed, knowing she was only jealous because Dragonstone didn't like her, and Blackpaw would be consuming even more of his time.

"I really had a bad dream. Besides, I don't know how to hunt.. I doubt I'll do any good today," Blackpaw added on, glancing at the thick fog that lay before them. She had only learned the a few tips the day before.

"Liar. What're you? Training to go back to your grand-daddy?" Inkjet mocked with a sneer before she stalked off. Blackpaw's tried to ignore it, but her fur was already on its end.

She had barely known her mother, and had never met her father. Someone, the other cats in LakeClan found out that Blackpaw and Toadpaw were kits of Vulturestar and Skystar. Her mother was dead, and her father disappeared. That made them grand children of the most powerful enemy the forest had ever faced.

Thunderstar had taken over CaveClan just two days after MountainClan. LakeClan knew that they would fall next when they were visited by Airflight. He announced that Thunderstar would be coming to takeover LakeClan, and if everyone was prepared to cooperate, there would be no death.

Shadowstar gave in, and LakeClan became the third an lowest province in the empire. They were frequently visited by StormClan's messenger, Airflight, and some moons even by Thunderstar or his deputy.

Being the third province, their territory was completely encroached on. They weren't allowed to hunt out of the province and they couldn't send more than two patrols out a day.

In result, the scramble for food became fierce in the moons that were growing colder. Leaf-bare wasn't far away and Shadowstar feared they would not make it through.

"Alright. Let's separate for better chances. Blackpaw, you look on land today, Hiddencreek and Inkjet can hunt in the streams and I'll

look for water fowl," Silverfeather said with a slight nod, before trotting off. The others left and Blackpaw sighed. *How am I supposed to find anything? Let alone, hunt it*.

"Come on... come on," Blackpaw murmured as she crouched into her first hunter's crouch. After a long time of trotting, she could smell and see the tiny finch, sipping water from the lake. She stepped closer and her paw sunk into the mud of the shore. Blackpaw almost cursed, when she saw the bird freeze in alarm. *Shut up and get the bird*. She told herself.

Blackpaw lunged forward, but ended with her face in the mud. And a cat chuckled nearby.

"*Kit*.." A black furred cat sneered as he stepped out of the bushes. He was huge, and she had never met him, but his face was familiar. His scent was alarming.

"You're... You're RogueClan! What're doing on empire t-t-territory?" She stuttered frantically. The rogue could kill her before she screamed, if he wanted to. He frowned then looked at her more closely with his dark blue eyes.

"If I were you, I'd get out of the territory while I could. Thunderstar doesn't like cats like us.."

"What? I'm nothing like you," Blackpaw stated looking at his gruff fur. *Sure, our pelts and eyes but that has nothing to do with anything*.

"You're my sister. Once he finds out, Blackpaw, he's going to move you to kill you. He tried to kill me," he explained adamantly. But she wasn't having any of it.

"Get out rogue," she spat before turning and dashing away. Although she was weak and a bad hunter, she was great at running.

As she sprinted back to camp, she glanced back once, checking for the Tom then ran blunt force. She stood, shaking off the pain and glanced up to see large yellow eyes. *Oh no*...

"Watch where you're going. Our leader deserves the utmost respect," Tigerstorm warned as Thunderstar and Blackpaw met each other's

gazes. She shuddered at the gouge where his right eye should be. *Where's his eye?*

"I'm sorry.. I-I.."

"Apologies are for the weak. You must not regret any decision you make, for it is a sign of weakness," Thunderstar said with a challenge in his eye. Blackpaw swallowed then stepped back a few cat lengths. This was the first time she herself, had been in the presence of Thunderstar. Sprucestrike, his deputy, had always came before.

"Blackpaw! Who're you... Oh! Thunderstar, what a pleasant surprise," Silverfeather lied through her teeth. The leader however showed no emotion to her fake expression and turned toward Blackpaw.

"You must watch where you're going.. Or you may run into something worse next time," Thunderstar advised as Blackpaw started to walk to Silverfeather's side. What could be worse than you? She wanted to ask, but her good mind stopped her. Instead she stayed silent and led them to camp with Silverfeather.

It was completely silent until they reached camp. Blackpaw immediately made her way toward where the apprentice's lay in wait. *Airflight must've came and announced it...*

"Sorry for the delay, Shadowstar. Shall we begin with the new apprentices?" Thunderstar purposed as he came to the middle of the camp. On the right side, the apprentices lined up accordingly oldest to youngest as in routine.

He quickly glanced over Zodiacpaw and Leopardpaw who he had seen before, and onto the next. He silently studied Cougarpaw for a minute. *Maybe.. Warrior... No. Too old*. He glanced over Finchpaw, Dawnpaw, and Winterpaw but stopped at Toadpaw and Blackpaw. She tried to keep her head down, but Thunderstar was already intrigued, which meant horrible things for her.

"Shadowstar," Thunderstar called out, still keeping his stare on the two.

"Yes, Thunderstar," she said, trying not to grovel as she said the words. He grinned and continued.

"Who are their parents? Surely, you leader of this clan would know," he added on as he studied them quietly.

"Skystar and Vulturestar.."

"Of course!" Thunderstar echoed gleefully. The abrupt sound was alarming and it made Blackpaw flinch. "Look at me, both of you.."

Toadpaw glanced up and Blackpaw did slowly. She tried not to stare into the grotesque abyss of his missing eye. It made her stomach churn and her senses vile.

"I used to know your parents. They were great leaders... Unfortunately, your father couldn't see the good in my work. He went insane, and killed your mother," Thunderstar explained with a narrowed glare and hint of a grin. "Although you've both faced harsh persecution, no more.. From this day on, Blackpaw and Toadpaw shall be moved to the first rank!"

A gasp filled the camp, but Sweetbreeze wasn't about to let it happen.

"Toadpaw's my apprentice. He's a medicine cat apprentice!"

"Thunderstar, Snakepaw has been training for a moon now. It would be senseless to remove either," Tigerstorm informed him quietly and he nodded. I can do without Toadpaw. Blackpaw is the prize.

"Very well. Blackpaw shall be moved to first rank immediately. Goodbye, LakeClan," Thunderstar grinned before stalking out with Tigerstorm following. Airflight stayed to announce the following to the camp.

"Tomorrow, our head Queen Bluewisp, will be coming by to inspect the breeding standards of this clan. You are to treat her with the same respect you treat Thunderstar. Any hatred shown toward her would result in execution," Airflight informed, then glanced toward Blackpaw with confusion.

"Aren't you coming?" He questioned with a scoff. Blackpaw, still trying to process the shock, was frozen.

"Go girl," Burrclaw snapped. Blackpaw glanced around her clan mates with pleading eyes. *They won't let them take me...*

"Blackpaw, go," Shadowstar finally demanded with a solemn glance. She hated everything Thunderstar was doing, but she had to protect the clan first.

Airflight finally glanced back with a scowl, and Blackpaw slowly walked forward. He smirked then burst into a sprint and had no choice to follow.

"Blackpaw!" Toadpaw cried out. Her brother was trying to catch up with her, but it was too late. She didn't glance back. She didn't want to cry.

After pushing herself up the grassy hill, an onto StormClan territory, she couldn't keep up with Airflight anymore. She panted heavily before the tears started to pour. Airflight overheard it, stopped and spin to face her.

"If you don't suck it up, you'll be cleaning out the dirt from the nursery," Airflight said strictly. The tears continued to roll down Blackpaw's face. I don't care. Just kill me now. "Don't be such a kit about it. It's not like we're hurting you.."

"Toadpaw is my only family left," she sniffled, hoping her brother would fair well without her. She hoped the best her little brother, but wish she was still there. Winterkit, Toadkit and her had been inseparable as kits. They were the first kits of LakeClan. Blackpaw has never imagined what a life without LakeClan would be like.

"You're wrong. Sharppaw, Tangledpaw and Deathpaw are the same age as you. And you had the same parents. You must've come from the same litter.."

"Then how did they get to StormClan?"

"I don't know. Ask someone who cares," he snapped continuing to trot ahead. Blackpaw's tears at that point stop and she something

swelling in her gut. In LakeClan, everyone was so clam, gentle and nice. Even in the midst of hunger, they did their best to stay cheerful.

Now, in the midst of StormClan, all she could feel was anger.

Continuing along the wide and open terrain, wasn't very interesting for Blackpaw. For some reason, she always though StormClan's territory would be more menacing and, well, stormy.

But in the coming of Autumn, the cats of the clans hadn't had rainfall for many weeks. However, fiercer winds blew through the mountain ranges and the temperatures gradually became more mild, and chilly at nights. In the former territory of MountainClan, the trees were beginning to shed the first leaves of the season.

The surplus of birds, migrating south, stopped continually at the beautiful lakeside. The new and exotic flocks provided plentiful prey, for those who knew how to catch them.

"We're almost there. Make yourself presentable," Tigerstorm advised as they neared an area with larger stones. Several times, Blackpaw had tripped on rocks and fallen into shallow crevices. What looked to be camp, had several massive stones protecting it from intruders and the elements.

Blackpaw ignored Tigerstorm's requested and followed them down a small tunnel. It wasn't very long, but it led to the open camp where the sky watched from above. With curiosity taking its toll, she inspected her surrounding and the other cats.

To her surprise, she noticed a gentle blue eyed she cat laying off to the side. She smelled the patrol and her ears perked. Her pelt was a gorgeous blue tinted gray, and she bore a pleasant expression. As she rose, three bundles of fur moved also and glanced over with wide eyes.

"Momma.. she's so pretty," Dreamkit murmured, as her eyes followed Blackpaw. Bluewisp nodded and bent down to her kits.

"We mustn't speak too loudly. We don't want to disturb anyone. If

she's a friend, we'll get to meet her later. But first, I think Ivysong's girls want to play," Bluewisp explained with a gentle and loving tone. It was softer than queen's voice before. Something about Bluewisp made her an excellent queen.

Blackpaw turned her head as the kits went inside the nursery, and Bluewisp sat straighter. She watched Blackpaw, anxiously, awaiting Thunderstar to announce a meeting to explain the newcomer's presence.

Blackpaw was indeed pretty for her age. Her shorthair was well groomed and silky from her upbringing of eating fish. Her body wasn't think not thin. Everything was evenly proportioned and she had a beautiful gait to her. But the most stunning and noticeable factor, were her bright blue eyes.

"Sprucestrike," Thunderstar called out as he entered camp. Blackpaw watched as a large brown furred tabby Tom trotted forward. No one, was as large as Thunderstar. But Sprucestrike, was a large Tom considering the others of the mountains. "Any sign on border?"

"No. No MountainClan, or him. However there were faint scents of foxes and rogues. But, I our patrols followed the scent off the borders. All should be well."

"Indeed. It should. Are Hunters still regulating the province's hunting?"

"Yes. Aspenfur and a few other are near CaveClan. They will be back by sundown," Sprucestrike replied again when he noticed Blackpaw. He instantly recognized the blue eyes and scowled. Great. Another one... "Whose our guest?"

"Blackpaw, my granddaughter," he muttered to Sprucestrike with a smirk. This didn't amuse Sprucestrike at all. Sooner or later the prophecy will be fulfilled. Or maybe... not even in our lifetime.

Before the prophecy, Thunderstar had named his last litter. They were nursed by Rosejay and Bluewisp since their mother's untimely death. The oldest was Russetkit, who Thunderstar resented terribly

for his dark red tabby pelt. It was only a reminder that the kit, wasn't his, only an act of adultery. The second born was Batkit, and the third was named Stormkit. The youngest Tom was definitely Thunderstar's, and he resembled his brother, Vulturestar, in every way. Every way, except his bright blue eyes. *It could be Stormkit's heirs... not in our lifetime...*

"You're taking too many chances. You'll end up with a slit throat soon," Sprucestrike said through gritted teeth. Thunderstar's death would mean the end of everything they had worked for. Chaos would rein. My girls... He worried silently.

Vinekit and Ivorykit were his daughters, and quickly became the biggest joy of his life, besides Ivysong. His family meant more to him than anything had before. And he wanted to keep it that way.

"Are you afraid? Blackpaw is StormClan blood, and may solve our worries. If my heir is to kill me, it won't be any of the three in StormClan, I promise you.."

"I can't save you from this LightClan voodu!"

"I didn't ask you too. Now order patrols to collect for a gathering tonight. Blackpaw shall become one of us..."All of their conversation was spoken in low whispers while Tigerstorm and Airflight examined Blackpaw silently.

"I didn't know StormClan had kits," Blackpaw admitted, tired of the awkward silence between them. They both glanced at her with confused expressions.

"We're not a gang. We're an empire," Airflight said sternly.

"We warned MountainClan. And we're not laying a siege of death to everyone. We're running our empire. And an empire needs more prey than rabbits and birds alone.."

"But you kill people!" Blackpaw exclaimed in accusation. Tigerstorm and Airflight exchanged grins before turning.

"Your *elder myths*, are pathetic. Since the great battle, I haven't laid a claw on anyone except in training. I'm a runner," he corrected.

"I'm a warrior, and I'm not a killer. You always have a choice. Thunderstar won't punish someone for not killing a cat. He knows that if every cat had the will and power to kill another, we'd never have formed these clans," Tigerstorm explained throughly. They both grinned at her speechless expression, then Thunderstar and Sprucestrike turned.

"We are having the ceremony at sundown. In the meantime, Tigerstorm can watch you," Thunderstar ordered before heading off to his den. Sprucestrike also left, but headed for the nursery to visit his kits.

Airflight wasted no time and spotted Cedarlily grooming herself across cat. He grinned in excitement before bounding over. And, Tigerstorm turned to Blackpaw, who was disappointed to get stuck with her.

"Now. I'll show you, what a real clan is like."

Meanwhile, far from StormClan's reach, a she cat watched over the horizon. High in the mountains, she could see everything. Everything except her clan's future.

"Fawn that runs swiftly," the brown tabby Tom asked. Swiftfawn spun around to face him.

"What? And I told you, it's Swiftfawn or Sarah. It's definitely not that mouthful," she snapped as she trotted down from the ledge and to the tribe cat.

"But it is our custom."

"Share your custom with someone who cares," she spat leaving him speechless. She was done with waiting, done with the pain, and done with life. She quickly sprinted around and down the mountain's edge. She saw the camp from above and sighed. *We've lost so many... But we will avenge them.*

"Bushwind! I need to speak with you," Swiftfawn requested as she trotted up to the Tom. He was the only spiritual connection they had, but he wasn't any help. The best thing he had done, was

finding the tribe. Just like MountainClan, there were only surviving members of the tribe. Their territory had been taken over by wolves, bears and pesky Twolegs, lighting fire to their leaves.

Their enemies had driven them out, and now, a mass group of refugees was gathered. RogueClan had visited a few times, but never stayed for more than three days. Normal rogues had traveled to them, wanting the same deal as past cats.

"What is it?" Bushwind asked with pensive eyes.

"We need to go back. It's been three moons and we've done *nothing*.."

"Swiftfawn, everything is nice here. I was just telling the kits yesterday, there's more prey than CaveClan will ever have!"

"We're living like rogues! We have *no leader*, *no clan*.."

"We have each other! That's all that matters," Bushwind said with wide eyes. She frowned and stepped closer.

"I have no one. That filthy family of yours killed my friends. I'm leaving Bushwind. And while I'm gone, you better learn how to become a real clan," she finished before trotting off without further word. Bushwind sighed and glanced around camp. *What's wrong with me?*

"Breeze.. that does something I can't remember.. What's wrong with me?"

"It's Breeze where the Eagle flies. And nothing is wrong with you, Leaf of bush that flows through the wind! In fact, you're the funniest cat I've ever met," Breeze where the Eagle Flies said. Bushwind smiled but still felt turmoil.

"I don't know.. I just think.. never mind," he pushed the thought away, but Breeze where the Eagle Flies, was insistent on helping.

"No, no, say it," he encouraged with a friendly smile.

"I had a mentor, named Horsetail and he died. Well, the point is, he

was the thing that held the clan together. And now, I feel like I'm letting him down.."

"Oh, Bushwind. It's quite normal to feel that when you've lost a friend or loved one, but blaming yourself won't help anyone! Whatever it is, know that we can get the cats through it," he replied with a smile. Bushwind exchanges it back and nodded in agreement.

"Thanks Breeze! You'd be a good therapist! See ya later," Bushwind exclaimed before trotting off, gleefully. *Horsetail has faith, so I must...* Breeze where the Eagle Flies, however, was throughly confused.

"Hug? Therapist.. What's a therapist?"

Thank you reading, voting and commenting. Entries have been booming and I shall inform you that 145 cats live in the allegiances currently. That's a lot of cats!

Shall death fill the future?
Or therapists?

Also, XandarianLord has made a petition to rename Thunderstar, "Emperor of dumb-butts." Sign this petition in his single book.

And finally, in the entry, your names should be listed by your cats. If not, inform me so I don't accidentally auction off your cat.

Chapter 2

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears.

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange.

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. Kits: Dreamkit (she cat), Aloekit (she cat), and Kindlekit (Tom)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. Kits: Ivorykit (she cat) and Vinekit (she cat)

Kits:
Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has

brown eyes but her left eye is blind.
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. Mentor: Sleetpool

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Kits: Stonekit (Tom)

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Darkkit (she cat) and Hazelkit (Tom)

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons.

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons.

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons.

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose.

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has

yellow eyes.

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail.

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail.

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:

Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Rogues and Refugees-

Kabir- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. 14 moons.

Honeysuckle- a golden and white tabby she cat with brown eyes. 58 moons.

Wilt- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. 62 moons.

Frost- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes. 15 moons.

Kaizen- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. 15 moons.

Holly- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. 35

moons.

Wish- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. 28 moons.

Whirlwind- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes.

Feather- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes.

Fern- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons.

Ebony- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 3 moons.

Frog- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes. 5 moons.

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes.

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Expecting Bushwind's kits.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Kits: Jaykit (Tom) and Ravenkit (tom)

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes.

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons.

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar

on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons.

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons.

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons.

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons.

As night encroached, Blackpaw couldn't keep still. More patrols and cats were returning from their daily work.

Two she cats, one with russet fur and the other with ginger tabby fur, scowled then laughed at her. It felt strange to Blackpaw. She had never felt so low, until that moment.

Tigerstorm sat by her but didn't bother talking to her anymore. She was preoccupied flirting with another Tom. He was a large tortoiseshell Tom that exuded danger. Blackpaw could tell they were both warriors.

"Whose she?" Blackpaw heard Earthfoot ask. Tigerstorm smirked and turned toward him.

"Just some apprentice. Thunderstar found her interesting but, I don't see it.. Let's not talk about her," Tigerstorm smirked with a slim grin. Earthfoot smiled, but glanced at his paws knowingly. He wasn't quite ready to talk about it. "It's all happening tomorrow.. We could tip off Bluewisp."

"She'd never. Thunderstar has us as his warriors. We're not meant to have families," Earthfoot replied quietly. He wanted a family badly, but knew a family would make him softer.

Tigerstorm sighed as Sprucestrike announced the clan meeting. They got into their formal positions and Blackpaw shifted on her paws, unaware of where she would stand.

Warriors were lined on one side, will their apprentices. Hunters were adjacent of them, with their apprentices. And the other positions tagged onto the lines at the end. Each cat was orderly and precise. Except for Blackpaw, no one was out of place.

"Good evening. Tonight we have some very important news. According to StormClan law, our head queen, Bluewisp, will travel to each province to sort out the future of each province. Tomorrow, she will be visiting LakeClan then the next day, CaveClan. And after the lower ranks are sorted, she shall come back and officially decide on StormClan. Would you care to share what this will entail, Bluewisp?" Thunderstar asked, glancing over to the she cat. She nodded and glanced per her kits once, who sat obediently.

"Of course, Thunderstar," she said as she walked to the base of the jagged rock, where all could see her. "It is the duty of the head queen to select the mates that will continue the future of this clan. They will be very... stressful.. Decisions, but I assure you, I will do my best to make the right choices." She stepped back with a smile, and Thunderstar dismissed her with a nod. He sighed then glanced around.

"The criteria will be based on origin, rank, and age. Apprentices will not be chosen unless they are older than ten moons and match another cat. If Bluewisp does not find a cat suitable for mating, they shall not be able to mate. Existing mates, shall stay with each other. Mates mate for life in this empire," Thunderstar declared. He was focusing on staring down any possible weakness, when he spotted Blackpaw. "And.. We have a new addition to StormClan. Blackpaw, step forward."

Everyone's heads gradually turned to face her, and she swallowed. Blackpaw stepped past the line and into the middle. As she walked forward, she heard the she cats from earlier, laugh at her. Nevertheless, she continued.

"Blackpaw.. Will now be joining the 1st rank as.."

"She can't be anything.. she's too weak," Cherrypaw whispered to Bluepaw. Blackpaw overheard and glanced down at her paws. She couldn't help but care about what others thought of her. *If this is my*

new home.. I need to be respected.

"As a messenger. I'm confident her running skills will make her a talented messenger. Airflight, you will be her mentor.."

"Of course, Thunderstar," Airflight smiled sarcastically. He exchanged a glare with Blackpaw as if to say, *you better watch it.*

"That is all, I believe. Watch the borders, and continue the excellent work.." The clan all bowed their heads, some quickly, some reverent, and some sloppy. Blackpaw glanced over to Airflight who was glowering.

"Listen, kit. I run at a fast pace. I'm not going to kit you through this so you better be ready. Your training starts tomorrow," Airflight explained briefly, before heading off to his den. It wasn't long before another cat wanted to speak with her.

"Just because you're Thunderstar's kin, won't make you a better Warrior," Cherrypaw sneered as she and Bluepaw walked up to Blackpaw. She turned to them with a confused glance.

"I thought I was.."

"Better than us? Heir? Yeah, right," Bluepaw snorted. They exchanged glances and their movements came closer.

"Are you even 5 moons? You look like a kit!"

"I can't believe LakeClan would even want you!"

"Shut up," Blackpaw said with no ferocity or anger to her voice. It was more of annoyance. *How could they act so immature?*

"Did she just.. Cherrypaw.." At Bluepaw's words, Cherrypaw shot forward and batted her across the face, with flared claws. Her claws drug across Blackpaw's cheek and she shrieked in pain.

"Girls!" Jaybird snapped with a warning in her tone. Neither wanted to be lectured, so they stalked off to the apprentice's den. Blackpaw pushed herself up, and onto her paws.

Jaybird beckoned her with her tail, and she began to follow when she was disgusted. Thunderstar still sat on the jagged rock, and had been watching. Blackpaw gritted her teeth, but sent him a single side glare.

Thunderstar grinned as he noticed it, then dropped from the rock and into his den. Blackpaw silently entered the cold nursery, and met the medicine cat inside.

"You should be more careful. Those two are always looking for trouble," Jaybird said as she began to apply marigold to Blackpaw's cut. Blackpaw, shocked, didn't argue with her healing.

"I don't want to be here. I didn't take an oath or ask for any of this. I much rather starve with my friends rather than *those* cats.."

"You think I asked for this? I didn't ask to be blind? I didn't ask for LightClan to curse me with my destiny.. Now, I'm serving demon in the form of a cat," Jaybird scoffed, dabbing the juices on the cut.

"You're blind? I didn't notice.."

"Don't speak. It'll worsen your cuts," she retorted quickly. Blackpaw did as she requested, but yearned for more. "Yes. I was born blind dear. And I was a rogue before my life here. Trust me, this is better than the streets. There is significantly less deaths here. And you've never had to deal with Twolegs.. So cheer up. Things will get better. And if you're too much of a problem, or Thunderstar gets bored of you, you'll get placed down a province."

"Bored! He's insane," Blackpaw exclaimed, already sure of the evil stereotypes others had placed on him.

"Hush! Listen to me, child. Everything... is a game to him. He did the same thing to his other granddaughter, but she wouldn't take it," Jaybird explained, remembering the intensity of the night Thunderstar imposed his rule. Gem and Shadow were banished, and now, no one had seen RogueClan for a few moons.

"What's wrong with him?"

"His past is something no one can speak of. Did you know your

father?"

"No. My mother never spoke of him. Who is he?"

"No.. no. We cannot speak his name anymore. Please. Watch yourself, especially this moon," she requested with a calm and tender voice. Blackpaw nodded then took a place in one of the empty nests. The last thing new wanted to do was join the others in the apprentice's den. Blackpaw was about to close her eyes, when she had a reoccurring thought.

"Did Thunderstar kill my father?" She asked in a whisper. Jaybird was also in her nest, but didn't move an eye at the question.

"No. Vulturestar tried saving this clan. He had to leave to protect others. As I said, it's a game for Thunderstar. He only takes action after methodical planning. What I've learned, is that his heirs intrigue him the most," Jaybird said before curling into a fight ball. Blackpaw did not want to disturb her sleep, so she also prepared to sleep.

It seemed that as soon as she shut her eyes, they reopened to the morning. It was awfully strange to her. She had eccentric dreams for the past moon. *Why did they stop now?* She glanced around and noticed Jaybird was gone, but a small ginger furred Tom was in her place.

"Jaybird says you need to take this before you start training today," Snakepaw reported as he pushed a few leaves forward. His mentor was collecting more herbs today, and gave him the job of sorting the herb stores.

"Who are you?"

"I'm Snakepaw. My mother is Rosejay and my father is Foxheart," he replied, following customary traditions. When meeting a new cat, all are supposed to list their ancestors to exhibit their quality of blood. "Aren't you going to say yours.."

"Oh, sorry. I'm Blackpaw. My mother is Skystar and my father is Vulturestar," she replied quietly, glancing at his paws. Snakepaw's

mouth didn't move but his eyes widened. *Is he surprised?*

"Are you Tangledpaw's sister?"

"Um.. I guess. I was only two moons when they left, so I don't remember it that well."

"I can go get them if you want.."

"No," Blackpaw snapped quickly. After realizing her tone she stepped back and began to rephrase it. "You don't need to get involved."

"Blackpaw, let's go!" Airflight ordered as he glanced into the medicine cat den. Blackpaw gave Snakepaw a curt nod before trotting after Airflight.

Both of them were silent until they reached the far reaches of the StormClan province, when he began speaking. To her surprise, she wasn't tired yet. *Perhaps Thunderstar made the right choice...*

"I've been the only runner since Lynch left for StormClan. Now, he's one of the rogues on Thunderstar's hit-list. Our job as messengers are to scout for enemy whereabouts, and deliver and collect information from the provinces. We go wherever, whenever requested from the leadership. Is that clear?"

"Yes. When do we eat if we're out all day?" Blackpaw asked, feeling the hollowness of her stomach. She hadn't eaten in two days and was highly curious what the health standards were incorporated.

"We eat when he says we eat. And if it gets that bad, we can hunt. Running is our first priority, however," he said glancing over the horizon. "Today, we're going to let CaveClan know Bluewisp is coming in a few days."

Airflight soon broke into a sprint, and Blackpaw was forced to follow. *Running. Running. And running.*

"She's been here, all day..."

"Deciding mates is not easy," Mistyshine replied to Lightsplash. Her

friend shrugged before glancing at her paws.

Bluewisp had arrived at LakeClan late in the morning. Shadowstar had the apprentices and Rockfall go out for battle training, while everyone else stayed.

"Do you think we'll.."

"Definitely. Our age is prime for having kits," Mistyshine whispered. Lightsplash nodded then glanced over to the toms Bluewisp was questioning.

"Which Tom do you want?" Lightsplash asked with wide eyes. Mistyshine spat at the question.

"Eww, are you serious?" Mistyshine whispered. "This whole thing seems sick to me. Mates choose each other not some *official*."

"It may seem tragic, but at least you'll get mates.. and have a family," Rainpool said, placing her head on her paws. Lightsplash exchanged a confused expression with Mistyshine before walking over.

"What do you mean?" Lightsplash asked. Rainpool closed her eyes then sighed.

"Bluewisp knows who I am. My grandfather would've requested that traitors of StormClan never have heirs. It's smart, though. I would've trained my kits to depise StormClan," Rainpool explained with a shrug. Mistyshine nodded in agreement. It made her wonder. *What will I tell my kits? What will I teach them?* She suddenly noticed Bluewisp finishing her conversation with Badgerclaw.

"She's coming this way." The three she cats came to their feet as Bluewisp sauntered over. She had a pleasant smile on her face, but she could feel the intensity in the air.

"Sorry to bother you. Could I speak with Lightsplash?" Bluewisp asked politely. The gray she cat nodded and they went off to the side. "Lightsplash, can you tell me about yourself. Where you came from and your beliefs?"

"I don't see what this has to do with anything," Lightsplash scowled. Bluewisp, in a motherly way, was quite taken aback. I didn't want this...

"I was given this job. I didn't want it. I'm trying to make you and your friends happy. If Thunderstar came and decided, you would be paired by strength and breed, not personality and age. I'm trying to give you the lives you truly deserve. Now where did you come from?" Bluewisp asked, growing a bit intolerant of their intolerance.

"Mistyshine and I were from a queen from PureClan. We never experienced clan life until LakeClan," Lightsplash said before going on to further explanation. "Mistyshine, Ottertail, and I, were the first apprentices here. They're my best friends. I thought everything would be great after we joined, but Thunderstar is relentless.."

"He wants what's best for everyone. But it's not about him. Which one of the she cats here do you find to be he best queen?"

"Well, Badgerclaw has the biggest crush on Moondust! We've been waiting for them to make it official for months. Shadowstar and Silverfeather are both good mother figures, but they've never had kits. My friend Mistyshine.. in the future, NOT ANYTIME SOON, would make a great queen. I'm secretly hoping that you pair her and this tom, because they'd make gorgeous kits..."

"Do you mind telling me?" Bluewisp asked with a grin. Once one got to know Lightsplash, she was much more fun. The she cat sighed but vowed Bluewisp to secrecy as she told her. Bluewisp nodded in acknowledgement of the wise pairing. *They would make gorgeous kits!*

"Mistyshine," Bluewisp called as she trotted over. Rainpool gave her a hopeful look before trotting off to the warrior's den. She led her away to a quiet area before she spoke.

"I'm worried. I'm not ready to have kits, Bluewisp," Mistyshine said earnestly. The she cat glanced at her empathetically, then grinned.

"Every she cat's first time is like that. When I fell in love with Aspenfur, I wasn't sure about if I would be a good mother. After

that litter passed, I was convinced I couldn't keep any kits alive again. But my mate and clan had faith in me. You need to have faith in yourself, Mistyshine," Bluewisp said with a small smile. Mistyshine scoffed at this, but Bluewisp wasn't kidding. "All your fellow clan mates think you'd make a good queen, why don't you?"

"Because I don't see myself with any Tom in this clan. And, I don't want to be forced to get pregnant, when I could be doing something worthwhile!" Mistyshine exasperated in annoyance. Bluewisp took a step back, a bit offended. Mistyshine noticed her hurt expression and immediately composed herself. "I'm sorry.."

"Raising kits is a worthwhile calling, I assure you. You'll realize it soon enough," Bluewisp replied calmly.

"What?" Mistyshine exclaimed. Bluewisp stood then began walking toward Shadowstar.

"You'll find out soon.." Bluewisp then trotted over to Shadowstar who she had conversed with earlier. Her presence alone, was enough to show Shadowstar, that the job was done. Thunderstar had told her to assign four mates to mate toward the end of leaf bare, so that they would produce kits in green leaf. He had also instructed her to assign as many mates as possible so that "the province will starve". Bluewisp did not want any cat to starve, so she planned to keep it at a minimum. She could sways come back in twelve moons.

"Attention LakeClan," Bluewisp called out with Shadowstar's permission. The leader sat back respectively as the she cat continued. "The following mates I have chosen under the law of the empire. The following mates will mate at the beginning of next spring, so to produce kris in green leaf. Although you may never care for each other, you are expected to be good to your kits. Also, unfaithfulness is forbidden in the empire law."

Many cats frowned at this, seeing there was no true way out of these pairings. Anxiety and tension reached an all time high, as she reported the mates.

"Badgerclaw and Moondust will be mates from this day on out,"

Bluewisp said. The two tried to stay professional, but their matching was practically perfect. Moondust had been eager to tell him how she felt for moons, over the meals they shared. Badgerclaw had tried every opportunity to spend time with her. It seemed as if the pairing answered their prayers.

"Shadowstar and Maplewood. Since Shadowstar is your leader, it is her choice if your pairing shall produce kits or not. Dovepool and Rockfall shall remain mates," Bluewisp declared, sending relief through their veins. So far, none of the pairings contradicted what would've been done anyway.

"The next pairs, will be expected to mate in a moon, during leaf-bare, and kit early green leaf. This has been chosen do to your health endurance." The younger she cats flinched at her words. Mistyshine had thought that the first three were enough, but she was wrong.

"Hiddencreek and Silverfeather," Bluewisp announced. This was the first let down to the clan. Hiddencreek was in love with another she cat, even though Silverfeather was sweet. Rainpool glanced on sadly, exchanging a glance with Hiddencreek.

"Ottertail and Lightsplash."

"Yes! I mean... Foxdung," Lightsplash quietly said. Mistyshine wanted to curse also. If Ottertail was gone, it meant there were only two toms left. And neither, she was quite comfortable with. Lightningstrike was long and lanky, but pretty quiet. He liked to hang out with apprentices more than his age group. *He would not be a good father to my kits*... Then, Dragonstone. Mistyshine herself, had picked him up off the border of StormClan. But, he was older and much more of a mystery. She almost felt intimidated by him.

"And our final pair, Dragonstone and Mistyshine..." *Oh LightClan...*

Thank you for reading, voting, and commenting.

I have many begging for new chapters. I'll let you know that I am

currently in the middle of Mary Poppins the musical, which is showing this weekend and the next. So that, and smarty pants summer school, is the main cause of the wait.

If you have plot twists, let me know.

Chapter 3

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (NightmareDoge)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut.
(blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes.
(WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws.

(Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. (Wordweaver18) Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 1 moon. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 1 moon. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 2 moons

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green. (GamerGirl13x)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes. (countrycow22)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (amyyss) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 1 moon.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 2 moons.

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons.

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:

Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (Numies_Yum_Numies)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190) Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. (Wolf652) Mentor: Moondust

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Rogues and Refugees-

Kabir- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. 14 moons. (dwcyrus)

Honeysuckle- a golden and white tabby she cat with brown eyes. 58 moons.

Wilt- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. 62 moons.

Frost- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes. 15 moons.

Kaizen- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. 15 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Holly- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. 35 moons. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Wish- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. 28 moons. (Ivystar138)

Whirlwind- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Feather- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Fern- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebony- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Frog- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes. 5 moons. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. 6 moons. (WarriorCatFan53)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. 30 moons. (WarriorCatFan53)

Darkwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. 30 moons. (helloilovecats)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. 35 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Expecting Bushwind's kits. (GamerGirl13x)

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12) Kits: Jaykit and Ravenkit

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons. (BlueTiger666)

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons.

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons. (LizBot2)

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons. (LizBot2)

Sunlight stretched out on the marble seat, and enjoyed the feeling of the cold stone on her fur. Her human, a young girl, stroked her back. She was in complete bliss.

"My Princess," one of her human's protector's entered the lofty,

sandstone chamber. He was taller than most humans Sunlight knew, with a dark pelt and bronze bands on his arms. "Your father requests your presence."

Her human shifted in her seat. Sunlight could feel her anxiety through the trembling in her fingers, and the way she petted Sunlight more roughly.

"What is it?" Her human's voice, high and frightened, made Sunlight sit up. "What's wrong with him now?"

Sunlight purred, and nuzzled her human's hand. She didn't like it when the Princess was nervous, it made her nervous, and worried. Sunlight worried that her Princess would go on a long trip again, and leave her with less capable caretakers.

The Princess stood, and put Sunlight on the ground, but not before giving her a reassuring rub on the space between her eyes.

"I'll be right back, Sunlight," her human promised. "Father's just...," She paused. "I'll be back." Princess left the room with her protector.

Sunlight stretched, and padded out onto the balcony for a little fresh air. The Princess might be gone for hours, leaving Sunlight to entertain herself.

The balcony gave Sunlight a glorious view of the sea, glittering with greens and blue hues, and filled with ships and trading vessels along the port. Sunlight had never been to the port of Alexandria herself, but the Princess would talk about them when she studied for her lessons. Sunlight took pride in being able to understand her, and learn everything that her human could learn.

A skittering in the chamber behind her made Sunlight jump, and turn around. It was a mouse, sleek and plump from eating in the palace kitchens. Sunlight followed its movements with her sharp, blue eyes, and crept forward. The mouse stopped, its little nose twitching, causing its whiskers to vibrate.

Sunlight froze, and the mouse went back to moving around the chamber, searching for morsels to eat. Sunlight crept forward, her

tail twitching close to the ground. She readied herself for the pounce..

"Tere!" A ragged voice boomed from the balcony.

The mouse streaked away, leaving Sunlight without any prey to bring to her human. Osiris, curse me! Sunlight swore, and turned to face the intruder.

The intruder sat on the sandstone, marble-leafed railing of the balcony, a crooked smirk on his face. It was a tomcat, with pitch-black fur and mean eyes. He laughed.

"Tere!" The tomcat said. "F'f d'ja?"

Sunlight scowled. "I don't speak the language of peasants, alley cat! Either learn Greek or bother someone with more patience."

The smirk disappeared off of the cat's face, but soon returned.

"I thought you pampered pets of royalty had more manners," His smirk grew wider. "My mistake, I guess."

Sunlight flattened her ears; her scowl deepened.

"You ruined my hunt," She snapped. "What are you even doing here, Sir...?"

"Darkness," The tom said, "My name is Darkness. And you are..?"

Sunlight sat up straight, her nose in the air.

"I am Sunlight, companion to Princess Cleopatra Philopator! And you are trespassing! I demand that you leave these chambers at once!"

Darkness shrugged, and lay down, rolling onto his back. He was smiling again.

"Or what?" He asked. "I think I'll just hang out here for a bit, catch a few turns of sleep, and maybe then I'll leave." He cocked his head to the side, and looked upside down at her. "Your cliff is really very

nice."

"It's not a cliff," Sunlight corrected, composing herself. "It is a balcony, which you do not belong on. Please return to wherever you came from at once."

"Tnį?" Darkness scoffed. "What makes you think I came from anywhere?" He stood, and strode past her into her human's chamber.

"I'm a free spirit," Darkness boasted. "I can go wherever I please, and do whatever I want, and there's nothing a pet like you can do about it!"

"T-That's ridiculous!" Sunlight sputtered, "Where's the order in that? The structure? You're living like any old-,"

"Alley cat?" Darkness jumped onto the marble seat. "How do you know this stuff, it's not like you go anywhere."

"I've been to lots of places," Sunlight sniffed.

"Mm-hm, yeah sure. I guess I wouldn't leave this place either, if I could catch as many mice as I wanted." Darkness licked his whiskers. "Do you have any water? I'm thirsty."

Sunlight was about to protest, but decided that it would be pointless. Darkness obviously wasn't going anywhere, and she wanted some company anyway, though she would have preferred the company of her human.

"Yes. I'll show you."

She led Darkness out of the chamber and down a lofty, echoey hallway. She turned to the first room on their left, a small space with a large, copper dish in the middle of the room. The dish was filled with water.

Darkness whistled. "Isis, that's a fancy pot. Is everything you own shiny?"

He bent over to drink, lapping at the water with his tongue.

Sunlight observed him. At first, Darkness seemed large and scary, but now she could see that he was rather thin, and dusty from living in the streets. She could see his ribs in the light reflected off her drinking dish. And his tongue was indeed dry, almost white, from lack of water.

"Can't you drink from the sea?" She asked after he had finished drinking.

Darkness sighed. "No. It's full of salt, and you'll get sick if you drink the water. I usually end up drinking from potholes in the streets, or from the sewers."

Suddenly, Darkness shot up, looking worried.

"Curses! What time is it!" He asked Sunlight, running out of the room. Sunlight followed, confused. She followed him back into her human's room, where she watched him run out onto the balcony.

"It's almost dark," He gave Sunlight a pleading look. "I have to go, or-,"

"Will you come back?" Sunlight asked. "You're welcome to come back, and maybe get some food? It'd be a shame not to give you something for your company."

Darkness hesitated, than gave her a nod. "Sure. See you then!"

He disappeared over the railing, leaving Sunlight alone with her thoughts. Against her better judgement, the homeless Darkness hadn't been what she expected. There was something exciting about him. She hoped that he would visit again.

Again, Blackpaw and Thunderstar were both the recipients of this dream, along with other cats not foreseen.

Blackpaw was quite unsure of the vivid dreams, and tried to ignore the reoccurrence. Instead, she rose from her nest and began grooming her pelt.

"Hurry up, Blackpaw!" Steelpaw, a fellow apprentice urged. She quickly stood and stretched.

"What is it?" She called back.

"The hunters found a large group of rogues. Thunderstar wants everyone present, incase they mean harm," Steelpaw replied as she followed him out. She was terribly sore from yesterday, her first day training. The two joined the others who were off to the side. Cherrypaw was not among them, but other familiar cats were.

"Blackpaw! It's good to see you," Sharppaw called out as he rushed over to meet her.

"I'm sorry.. Are you.."

"Sharppaw. We're from the same litter. I could never forget the day we came here, but never mind. How's Toadpaw?" Sharppaw rambled in excitement. He held his family values high, and had missed his long lost siblings very much.

"He's a medicine cat apprentice for LakeClan. He loves it there. We both do," Blackpaw sighed, trying not to seem too despondent. Sharppaw's expression changed to a worried one.

"Do you like it here? Training is rough at first but it gets better-"

"This is a dictatorship. None of you have a say in your clan!"

"You're wrong. It's awesome here. We're always fed, our standards for training are higher and Thunderstar cares about his cats. When he brought us here, Bluewisp took us in. She's the best mother a kit could have..."

"Only because Thunderstar killed our mother," Blackpaw retorted. Sharppaw's eyes widened and he stepped forward.

"Thunderstar never killed Skystar. Vulturestar did.."

"What! No way."

"Bring in the new rogues, one by one. We shall judge if they are fit for our empire," Thunderstar ordered, and Sprucestrike nodded obediently. Blackpaw sighed and glanced back at the massive group of rouges. They were hungry, some were injured, and all wanted to

join StormClan.

"Moonbliss, bring the youngest ones to me, first," Sprucestrike ordered politely and Airflight glanced over the group. The older cats watched wearily, as he found the kits and brought them into camp. Blackpaw closed her eyes, and prayed they would pass Thunderstar's judgement. She didn't think he would hesitate to prevent disease or mutiny.

"What are your names? And how many moons are you?" Thunderstar questioned with a plain expression. The biggest kit glanced at the others before replying.

"I'm Frogkit.. my mommy died. I'm five moons," the brown and russet furred
Tom replied.

"Apprentice age, but we don't have an eligible mentor. How about CaveClan?" Thunderstar asked, glancing at Sprucestrike. His deputy nodded with no objection and they moved on to the next two.

"This is Ebonykit and Fernkit. They are both 3 moons from the same litter.."

"They'll stay here in StormClan. Next ones.."

"There's another family," Sprucestrike muttered as Airflight directed the four forward. There was a middle aged tom, a middle aged she cat, and two siblings, both around 15 moons.

As soon as they stepped into the camp, Honeysuckle's coughs became heard. They were deep, and in her chest. This immediately set off Thunderstar, who had faced the same ordeal long ago. *This could destroy everything...*

"Crimsonpaw! Sprucestrike, fetch her immediately," Thunderstar demanded with a serious tone. His deputy sensed this and quickly ran off to find the she cat. To their delight, she was not far off, and in camp.

The white furred she cat quietly groomed her pelt, when she heard her beckoning. She stretched at her name and unsheathed her

claws. *I must please, Thunderstar*.

"What are your names?"

"I am Kadir, this is my father Wilt. This is my mother, Honeysuckle and my sister, Frost," a fluffy white Tom with gray patches replied. He held quite a confident deposition, but Thunderstar was intimidated by no one.

"Frost, Wilt, and Kadir will all be escorted to CaveClan by Airflight and Blackpaw. Honeysuckle will follow you shortly, after Crimsonpaw has asked some of our rudimentary questions," Thunderstar explained with a comforting smile. Honeysuckle nodded in understanding, but the rest of her family wasn't so sure.

"Mom, we can wait," Kadir whispered. He was weary of the new cats. The atmosphere felt anything, but welcoming.

"No! We need to get food and sleep for your sister and father. I'll be fine," Honeysuckle replied with a smile. Wilt and Frost nodded, and assured Kadir.

Airflight and Blackpaw led the three out, while Crimsonpaw crept toward Honeysuckle. She led her to the old deputy's den, where no one lived currently. Honeysuckle found herself fall into a coughing fit, and Crimsonpaw grimaced in reply.

"It's nothing really. I swallowed a bug on the way here," Honeysuckle insisted, trying to be comforting. Crimsonpaw scoffed before she fell into chuckles.

"I'm sure," she sneered before she spun around. Her claws raked down the she cat's neck, and she fell to the ground, limp. After her duty had been accomplished, she sat and licked off her claws, waiting for the new recruits to finish introductions.

Ever since Dapplestone died, she had a fascination for death. Her mother took her eye, and in return Horsetail took her life. When her interest for death disturbed others, she was forced to choose a new home.

She found StormClan and quickly favored Thunderstar, who also

had lost his eye. He accepted her as his own, and in return, she had to do away with those who threatened him.

"Next, this is Kyle and Tom. Tom was a rogue. Kyle was a kittypet.."

Kyle was a pale ginger Tom with dark patches and soft blue eyes. Tom, was a dark black furred Tom with white speckles and fiercer, and sharper Amber eyes.

"They shall stay here. Tom, you will be know as Tempestshadow and you will be a warrior. Kyle will be Kestrelpaw, and your mentor will be Tempestshadow," Thunderstar declared accordingly before dismissing the two. Kestrelpaw shuddered with nervousness. Tempestshadow noticed this, and pushed him, purposefully.

"I am Darkwater, a former warrior," a silver furred she cat said. Her fur hung close to the ground.

"Darkwater shall be a hunter. Whirlwind, you will be known as Reachingbreeze. You will be a Warrior. Feather, you will be know as Moltenstream. You will be a hunter. That will be all. Sprucestrike, will tell you about our clan while showing you around the territory," Thunderstar requested, trotting toward where Crimsonpaw waited. As he entered she gestured to Honeysuckle's body. Thunderstar nodded with approval, glancing over the claw marks.

"You did the job very well, I didn't hear any screams. However, try not to be so messy, next time. Some cats are very delicate when it comes to these things. Let's dispose of her body while everyone is out of camp..."

As the day drew by, another cat drew closer to home. It had been too long, since she last laid eyes on her clan. But going back, would be harder. *Will they accept me?*

Shymask limped past the final trees and saw the plateau. A black furred Tom laid in silence until he noticed her.

"Mother," Twistedfoot called out in surprise before he ran down to meet her. When he noticed the change, he stopped in horror. *Who*

did this to her?

"When I was captive, I refused Thunderstar's wishes and he bit my leg. The bite was so deep, no cobwebs stopped the wound, and finding marigold was almost impossible... The Twolegs, had to cut it off," Shymask replied, referring to the nub that was once her left leg. Twistedfoot aided her up the hill, but he could sense her apprehension.

"I've been in CaveClan for two moons now. I've broken all ties with StormClan," Twistedfoot insisted.

"But, CaveClan has not? Cinderstar still answers to him, doesn't he?"

"I'm afraid so. Even if we did fight, there's no chance."

"I know. But when I was prisoner, Thunderstar was nervous, more than he's ever been. I think he knows something we don't," Shymask stated adamantly. Twistedfoot glanced at his mother with uncertainty. *LightClan has done nothing. Why help us now?* "There's a prophecy. I don't know what it is, but it has to do with his heirs. He mentioned Tallcloud, Palesky, and Silvershell. But last time I checked, they were Patchedfur's litter... Unless. *No way!*"

"Thunderstar was there. He's the father, or, there's two fathers? When I was in RougeClan, this strange tom named, Llewyn, told me that multiple toms can father a litter. If done in the right time period. Is it possible that this all happened for a reason?"

"I can't tell. StarClan.. LightClan or *whatever,* hasn't spoken to me since I was leader. But now, we *need* answers. We need MountainClan," she declared boldly.

"No one has seen MountainClan in moons. *She*... I mean, *RogueClan* disappeared to find them and never came back," Twistedfoot replied with a sunken expression. *You promised. You promised us both.*

"We *will*, find them. Stars, I hope Blitzfire is alright. Where's Cinderstar?" Shymask asked as she limped toward the entrance. Twistedfoot however, stood in her way, stopping her.

"You can't see them right now. Bluewisp is pairing the cats.."

"What! Pairing.. you mean,"

"Choosing mates," he answered with a roll of his eyes. "She said I could stay out here, because *Thunderstar's guidelines*, won't allow a me to mate with anyone."

"Your foot isn't genetic, surely. I want grand-kits."

"It doesn't matter, mom. Besides, our family is prone to limping now," he chuckled referring to her missing leg. Although some would take offense, Shymask didn't. She missed her son, too much.

"I've learned that, although inefficient, it doesn't make me a different cat, nor a different mother. In fact, you're going to have to re-teach me how to fight now. If we're ever going to defeat Thunderstar," she grinned brushing her muzzle against her son. She wished she could've understood him more as a child. *Perhaps things would've been different. We would've had Flintpaw*.

"I missed you mom. I never stopped missing you, even in DarkClan. And I'm sorry, really sorry about Flintpaw."

"I understand. But that's something you'll have to fix with, Fairshade. Where is he by the way?"

As soon as she prompted conversation about Fairshade, Bluewisp left with Airflight and Blackpaw who had delivered the new arrivals. They barely noticed the two disfigured cats, except for Blackpaw who did her best to be polite.

Shymask watched the black she cat sprint away, and felt a strange gut feeling. *She's the one*, a voice told her in her head. But something stopped her from ending it there.

"I can't believe that StormClan, foxhearted, wench!" Fairshade spat as he stormed out of camp, and past his family.

"Hello, sweetheart. Nice to see you, too," Shymask said briefly, but Fairshade was in a rant.

"I can't believe it. She paired me with Palesky! Who would want her! I told her, I'm in love with... MOM! Oh dung, what happened

to your leg?" Fairshade asked in shock. Twistedfoot scoffed at his rant, and limped back into camp. *He thinks she loves him, more than me. Mouse brain.*

"It got infected. All that matters is that I'm back. How is everything? Oh! And the kits, dung, I completely forgot about them after I saw you two," Shymask exclaimed, limping after Twistedfoot. Fairshade followed, still a bit shocked at her sudden arrival.

"They're well. But, we thought you were dead!" Fairshade said. He was happy to have her back, but hoped this wouldn't change his deputyship. "Mom, while you were gone.."

"Mommy!" Commitkit exclaimed as she raced over. In a flash, her three other siblings were behind her.

"Mommy, we missed you so much!" Wildkit insisted, barreling into her fur. "Whoah, is that your battle wound?"

"I love you! Don't ever leave us again!"

"I love you all too," Shymask replied, nuzzling them. The four had grown up a lot since she had last seen them.

"Where's daddy? Fairshade said he was with you," Phantomkit asked hopefully. They had only met their father once.

"Daddy, had to go somewhere.."

"Will we see him soon?" Aurakit squeaked with wide eyes.

"I don't know. I'll come back in a little bit, I have to speak with Cinderstar," she said as she limped off to find him. In the meantime, Twistedfoot prodded Fairshade.

"What were Bluewisp's verdicts?"

"All the existing mates stay. Then, Earthstripe and Timberfall, Frostycloud and Birchshiver, and Palesky and I. I don't see why she did it? Oceanheart has a crush on Palesky, and she doesn't even like me... She even paired Frostycloud with someone! She resents queen-life!"

"Palesky is in love with you. I bet she's doing leaps of joy!"

"I'll only be content with one she cat. *Gem*."

"You're insane. She's never cared for you! She doesn't even know you exist!" Twistedfoot sneered in reply. *Would he just shut up already?*

"I'm better than you. I'm practical about this, she could never be with *you*. You're horribly disfigured, snarky and a traitor to CaveClan!"

"Shut your dung face!"

"Frostycloud! They're fighting again!" Commitkit called out in fear. She hated how loud and scary they got.

"She's never coming back! You've got a mate now, *mouse brain*! Live in reality!" Twistedfoot scoffed fiercely.

"Go eat dirt!"

"Not before you!"

Shymask and Cinderstar listened in silent horror. *I'm a bad mother...*

Hi and thank you for tuning in on the continuous catastic roller coster of fun!

R.I.P. HONEYSUCKLE

You didn't even get the chance to join! Wow. Kadir and your family will certainly miss you. And that cough...

We will remember you.

Chapter 4

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (NightmareDoge)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Darkwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut.
(blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes.
(WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws.
(Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes.
(Wordweaver18) Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes.
(MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes.
(Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Mentor: Airflight

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. (WarriorCatFan53) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 1 moon. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 1 moon. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 2 moons (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green. (GamerGirl13x)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

(countrycow22)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Frostpatch- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Timberfall

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (amyyss) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 1 moon.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 2 moons.

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons.

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190) Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. (Wolf652) Mentor: Moondust

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Rogues and Refugees-
Kaizen- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. 15 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Holly- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. 35 moons. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Wish- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. 28 moons. (Ivystar138)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

(TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Expecting Bushwind's kits. (GamerGirl13x)

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12) Kits: Jaykit and Ravenkit

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 2 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons. (BlueTiger666)

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons.

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons. (LizBot2)

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons. (LizBot2)

Meanwhile, far from StormClan's reach, someone was following strange scents. Bushwind was in a low crouch, attempting to imitate a hunter's crouch as he stalked toward the cabin. It was made of wood, and very old at the looks of it. He had been investigating it

for many days now, anxiously watching the strange creatures.

The creature smelled like a dog, but it was much smaller. It had cream fur, with darker ears and tails. Its face, was the most intriguing part of it. It was scrunched, like a flower.

Bushwind spotted the creature and decided now was the time. *Be a great father...*

"RAAHH!" He roared as he burst toward the creature. It spun to five him then let out a bark and charged. However as they collided for battle, Bushwind tripped and fell on his face. The creature instead made a play bow and stuck out its tongue.

"Wanna play?!" It barked then panted with a smile. Bushwind stood and tilted his head.

"Oh.. You speak cat?"

"No. I speak dog."

"You're a dog?" Bushwind exclaimed examining the creature closer.

"Yeah! I'm a dog! Well.. a Pug. A Fawn Pug. What're you?"

"I'm a Bushwind.."

"Awesome. Are there other Bushwinds?"

"I don't know. Do you eat Bushwinds?" He asked cautiously. She giggled and shook her head.

"No way. I have kibble bits. I own a human.."

"Wow! I wish I owned a human. It'd be fun," he said with a smile. *I could pet the human, ride the human, cuddle with the human. Oh boy, if I owned a human!*

"By the way, I'm Sugar. So, where are you from then?"

"Oh! The other side of the mountain. We're staying with some distant cousins on this side of the mountain because there's this evil

empire kinda killing everybody," Bushwind explained with a normal tone. She nodded before glancing back.

"Well, I gotta go. Come by with your cousins tomorrow.. whatever cousins are.."

"Alrighty! See ya!"

While, Bushwind bonded with Sugar, two cats did the opposite.

"No! No way!" Mistyshine insisted, repeatedly. *I will not. I'm not ready*.

"I just want to go hunting with you! Nothing mate related about it!" Dragonstone explained. He glanced straight at Mistyshine with begging eyes. He could tell right away that she wasn't happy with Bluewisp's decision. Now, it was his time to show her, he was the best.

"What if the clan.."

"They're already talking. We can't stop it now, so why not get away. And we can go find some food! I'm starving all the time!!! I need food!" Dragonstone begged, rolling on the camp floor, pretending to die. Mistyshine let out a slight grin then went back to her straight face.

"Fine. We'll go fishing!"

"That's not romantic at all.."

"What!"

"Nothing, *dear*."

Mistyshine ignored him and continued trotting across the marsh. Most of the tiny creeks were muddy and shallow in the time of leaf-fall. The creek that could be fished in, was farther out, closer to the lake.

"Can we talk about stuff?"

"Talk about what? Do you mean the unfair subjection of young she cats to impregnant themselves by the end of leaf-bare. Yeah, I'd rather not," Mistyshine said trotting faster, to lose Dragonstone.

"I'm not really up for fathering, either. But what if we have adorable kits! With adorable names!" Dragonstone declared with a grin. Mistyshine ignored his glares and kept on the task at hand. "You know, I always loved the name, Insomniackit!"

"NO WAY!"

"So, we *are* going to have kits?" He asked cheerfully. She gave him a stern glare, then glanced at the stream ahead.

"No. Not until you prove yourself."

"Wait. What?"

"I'm not going to just lay down and have your kits! You'll have to prove yourself.. So I know, you're worthy," Mistyshine grinned playfully.

"Work? No..."

"Shh!"

"A tom can have an opinion, too!"

"No! I hear someone," Mistyshine retorted, peering around around wearily. Four blurs were barreling toward them, and not slowing down.

"In the river," Mistyshine said, diving in to the chilly water. Dragonstone groaned, but followed and they swam with the current pulling them back toward camp. However, the current was fairly slow.

A charcoal Bengal tom, Iris, spotted the two pelts, floating down the river and he caught up with them. Iris trotted quickly along the shore and got close enough to where he pulled out Mistyshine by the scruff. She gasped for breath before kicking him in the cheek. Iris hissed but continued chasing her down the riverbed, until he

collide with Dragonstone.

"Stay away from her!" Dragonstone demanded with a threatening glare. Mistyshine spun around but didn't say anything. She was focused on the three she cats, that were a little behind.

"What're you doing on LakeClan territory?" Dragonstone questioned immediately. The she cats exchanged glances while Iris got out and away of Dragonstone's grasp.

"Clan cats? He's smart to hide here. We're looking for our leader," Holly explained as she came up to Iris' flank. Dragonstone was far to alarmed to let his guard.

"Calm down, you're scaring them," Wish, a golden she cat, advised calmly. Comparing their sizes, Dragonstone could tell Holly and Iris were the real threats, while Wish was the caretaker. But there was a fourth cat.

"Good afternoon. I'm Kaizen," the she cat introduced herself formally. She seemed to be the substitute leader of the small group. "We realize your clan cats, but we are following a scent on our territory. We're asking for safe passage until we can find our leader."

"Oh," Mistyshine exclaimed in realization. She didn't understand who their leader was, but at least they meant no harm. "This is actually a province of StormClan, but we can escort you to the main province where they may know your leader."

The four exchanged pensive glances. *Do they know of StormClan?* Dragonstone wondered silently.

"Just show us to their province borders and we can make our way there," Kaizen replied politely. Dragonstone and Mistyshine nodded before leading them there. Both, did not know what to think of the cats. They only hoped that if they brought danger, it would avoid them.

As them trotted across the marshland, distant figures came near. Kaizen suddenly stopped, glanced at Iris, and nodded. They

suddenly dropped into battle positions and charged forward. Mistyshine and Dragonstone stopped and turned around, realizing they were stuck in the middle of a battle.

"Run!" Shadow shouted taking off past them. Hawk, Lostpath, Maliceflame, Llewyn and Gem were also among those running away.

"Kaizen!" Hawk yelled as he flipped around. It was a cue, and they all took on the StormClan warriors at full force.

Hawk grappled onto Nightjet. Even though Nightjet wasn't a warrior, StormClan risked everything for the chance StormClan would show.

Thunderstar barreled toward them, and Maliceflame growled at Hawk, who showed interest in the bigger kill. "He's mine," she mouthed.

Maliceflame and Thunderstar did collide and she managed to hook her claws into the void that was his right eye. He growled and threw her to the ground, but the she cat's agility was practiced.

"I hate you!" Maliceflame shrieked as she hurtled all her weight into his side flank. Thunderstar faltered but lashed around and bit her at the base of her left ear. He bit hard, at the base of her ear, and tore it off violently. Maliceflame's scream turned into a grunt as she kicked him in the stomach with her hind leg.

"Too bad," Thunderstar snapped as he brought his right claws down her flanks. Blood spilled onto her white pelt, but the she cat refused to stop. She clawed and clawed but Thunderstar stalked away, and Gem was waiting for him. "Where is he?"

"I don't know!" She hissed, taking a swipe at his muzzle. Thunderstar slid away, and batted her across the chest. She fell to the ground, not bloody, but bruised.

"You'll have to go, then. I don't have time for collateral damage," he growled, slashing his claws at her. She fell back and his claws raked across her muzzle instead of her throat.

"I'm afraid you'll have a lot more collateral damage," Hawk said lowly, from behind Thunderstar. He glanced longingly at Gem, want in to finish her off right there. But the tom did something that only a few cats had done before, intimidated him.

"And why is that rogue?" Thunderstar challenged, letting Gem go. The she cat slithered away, realizing her time would come later.

"You know, Thunderstar. There's a prophecy. And we three, are all apart of it... and the heir," Hawk said with a smirk. This caught Thunderstar's full attention and he glared at Hawk and Gem.

"*You know*.." Thunderstar hissed through gritted teeth.

"Oh don't worry. All my subjects shall know is that we're replacing you by resurrecting the greatest leader that ever lived. Gem, here, will be our sacrifice when the time comes. And I will be the host. You and your heir, will be the final pieces that set off this elaborate and unavoidable plan. And yes, you and your dearest legacy, will perish," Hawk menaced with a huge grin. Then he glanced over to his warrior's dead body. His organs were splayed outside of his body, but his heart and lungs were intact. He was still alive. "Nightjet will be the first of many.."

R.I.P. NIGHTJET

There's not much to Nightjet. Although, he is known for is brilliant hunting skills, he was never a fighter. This is shown when Hawk tips out his internal organs, leaving him to die a very slow death. Sorry bud.

R.I.P. MALICEFLAME

This she cat was known as Mittens before she became the wickedly known, Maliceflame. I don't mean to brag, but her name is so kick-butt. She was a really interesting cat. She will meet her mates, and children in the afterlife. Her only living descendant (besides Icywind's kits) is Hollowpaw.

I loved how her last words were, "I hate you!" Awesome.

Sorry for the short chapter, but it was a juicy one.

Chapter 5

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (NightmareDoge)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Darkwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long

jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut.
(blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes.
(WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws.
(Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes.
(Wordweaver18) Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes.
(MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes.
(Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Mentor: Airflight

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. (WarriorCatFan53) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 1 moon. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 1 moon. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 2 moons (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)

Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green. (GamerGirl13x)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.
(MidnightMoon1323)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.
(MotherXofXFandoms)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.
(countrycow22)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short

tail.

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Frostpatch- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Timberfall

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (Whisperflight) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 1 moon.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 2 moons.

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190) Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. (Wolf652) Mentor: Moondust

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

(TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Rogues and Refugees-

Kaizen- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. 15 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Holly- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. 35 moons. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Wish- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. 28 moons. (Ivystar138)

Iris- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Expecting Bushwind's kits. (GamerGirl13x)

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12) Kits: Jaykit and Ravenkit

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 2 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons. (BlueTiger666)

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons.

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons. (LizBot2)

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons. (LizBot2)

"What makes you think you're qualified for StormClan?" Sprucestrike snapped at the four new cats. Each had been picked up near the battle field, and had requested a presence with Thunderstar. However, they only received a presence with his deputy.

"We're fighters. Does it matter?" Iris challenged with a scoff. Holly nodded in agreement.

"You need more Warriors to impose control across the empire. Why can't we provide it?" Holly asked with a smirk.

"We'll see. You two want to be warriors.. What about Wish and Kaizen?"

"We'd prefer being hunters, if that's alright with Thunderstar," Wish requested politely. Sprucestrike nodded before stalking off toward his leader's den.

Lately, he had been doing all the leader's work while Thunderstar sat around and thought over prophecies and complications. This upset Sprucestrike. *Why do I do all this work for him when he's not even going to reward me in the future?* When he discovered his leader's den, empty, he sighed and went back to the rogues.

"You'll have to wait until he gets back," Sprucestrike explained to them. The four nodded and sat down in front of Thunderstar's den, careful to not step where not wanted.

"Sprucestrike," Bluewisp called as she entered the camp. She was followed by Airflight and Blackpaw, who both appeared very tired. "I'm going to decide on StormClan today. Do you know where Thunderstar went?"

"I'm afraid not. Airflight and Blackpaw could.."

"No! That's alright. I'll have Aspenfur get everyone. No worries," Bluewisp said before trotting away.

Sprucestrike dismissed himself and headed for the nursery. He hadn't seen his girls since yesterday.

"Daddy! Did you know that Russetkit knows the D-word?" Ivorykit exclaimed with a giggle. Sprucestrike frowned and shook his head. Then, Ivorykit grinned and moved closer trying to keep it a secret. She whispered, "Dumb-butt."

"What? That's not the D-word," her father replied and she giggled.

"Yes it is!"

"Ivorykit is silly, daddy! She says she wants to be a hunter like mummy! But warriors are the best!" Vinekit exclaimed with a grin.

"They're both equally valuable, girls. Without the hunters, warriors could not eat. And without warriors, hunters would not be protected," Ivysong replied matronly, glaring at the two, before turning to Sprucestrike. "Right Sprucestrike?"

"Of course," Sprucestrike replied. As Ivysong and Ivorykit turned away, he bent down to Vinekit. "Between us though, I like warriors better."

Vinekit smiled triumphantly before barreling off to play with her sister, and the other kits. They squealed and agreed to play mossball while the adults discussed, outside.

"I think they'll be alright at the end of the moon. I really miss hunting.."

"Of course they'll be alright. They're our kits," Sprucestrike purred. Ivysong was always flustered when he got romantic. He quietly licked the space between her ears and she purred.

"Is everything alright? Thunderstar seems so... Paranoid, lately.."

"I'm not supposed to discuss official matters," Sprucestrike whispered. She looked into his eyes and grinned.

"You don't have to discuss it."

"Nightjet died this morning."

"Thunderstar doesn't care about him. It's something else, who was there?"

"Just a rogue."

"A tom?"

"Yes. He threatens the empire. But it's not a worry. Thunderstar has only lost to one cat, and he's dead," Sprucestrike said, calming Ivysong. She wasn't confident in Thunderstar's leadership, but she

was confident in her clan.

Ivysong and Sprucestrike decided to nap together while the kits played. The rest of the clan scrambled nervously. She was sorting mates, and even they were nervous.

Bluewisp went around to the eligible cats, trying to heed the words Thunderstar told her. *Sensible! Don't let any brilliant warrior mate. We need them to stay strong. And keep the weak, without heirs*.

StormClan would be her hardest task yet. She had decided that Rosejay and herself would continue to be queens. And two more queens would be a good addition.

Ivysong would do better back as a hunter. She was left with ten eligible females. She immediately decided that the newest she cats would not be paired until they proved themselves. That left eight she cats. The newest arrivals would not mate until they earned their place among the clan. After careful thought, she decided Moonbliss, Poisonberry, Thornfrost, and Brightfire were out of the decision since they were all too dedicated to their craft. Queens had to have an interest in their family, and if chosen those she cats would only rush to go back to their former positions.

"Tigerstorm, I've noticed you and Earthfoot have taken a lot of your free time together," Bluwisp prompted as the two sat next to each other. Tigerstorm shifted off her tall legs and laid down with a smirk.

"Listen. You don't need to pick my brain like the others. There's only one that will father my kits, and that's Earthfoot. But thank you for putting so much effort into pairing us. If Dapplestone was here, it wouldn't have been the same," Tigerstorm replied with a curt nod. Bluewisp smiled and stood. *Earthfoot and Tigerstorm will have one litter, and bear strong warriors. One pair down*.

"Airflight! There you are.."

Bubblefur watched Airflight closely, as Bluewisp began conversing with him and asking questions. She was confident the Tom would be her mate. She wanted him more than anything. Bubblefur had

worked diligently and, Thunderstar must've noticed her behavior towards Airflight. *He can't deny his granddaughter.*

"What're you grinning about?" Cherrypaw sneered as she trotted over. Thornfrost followed the she cat. They had just returned from battle training.

"I'm going to have a mate soon," Bubblefur bragged with a gleeful smirk. Thornfrost didn't want to drop the news, but Cherrypaw was more than happy too.

"No you're not! Thunderstar isn't letting any of his heirs mate. Right Thornfrost?" Cherrypaw asked with her 'know it all' tone. Thornfrost shrugged silently, but Cherrypaw whipped back to face her. "I overheard Thunderstar one day. He was talking to Bluewisp about how none of his heirs could be paired with anyone.."

"You're wrong you little dung-faced-"

"That's enough," Thornfrost snapped with a monotone voice. Bluewisp was finishing with Airflight and walking over to Bubblefur. Cherrypaw trotted away mischievously while Thornfrost whispered a few words to Bubblefur.

"Whatever happens is meant to happen. But don't let *Cherrypaw*, get in the way," she advised before leaving herself. Thornfrost had become a wise soul. She was a fully capable warrior. Her father was the only one who could beat her.

However, she didn't feel like the clan was capable of repair. Some cats, especially of her family, were mean crude and hateful. There was a majority of good cats, but the bad set bad examples and bullied cats on borders.

She planned to takeover and restore the clans to the original state, at the optimal time. She had hoped she could gain Sprucestrike's support for the future, but his ignorance was not allowing him. Jealously had gotten him trodden in despair. *If only he could see I'm not like him...*

"Thunderstar's back," Blackpaw told them before heading toward

the den to spread the news. The leader stormed straight for the jagged rock, and the cats of StormClan scrambled into formation. Luckily, every cat was accountable except for the recently passed Nightjet, whom they had buried.

"Cats of the empire, I have important news," he began. At this, cats rushed, seeing it was truly something important. "Our loyal hunter, Nightjet passes earlier today. He was murdered by a rogue with a silver pelt that touches his knees, and blue eyes. All warriors must be ready to eliminate the threat. Understood?"

"Yes, Thunderstar!"

"Sprucestrike has informed me that we have four new clanmates to welcome. They shall receive their warrior name today, and earn it in the future... Iris, step forward."

The tom did as told and stepped out of the line and into the open space.

"Do you promise to uphold the empire's laws as long as you should live?" Thunderstar questioned routinely.

Iris glanced up and replied accordingly, will little emotion. "I do."

"You shall be know as Irisstep. You have expressed interest in becoming a warrior, so you shall begin training in that tomorrow. Holly..."

"I do," Holly replied in an impatient tone. Thunderstar grinned but continued nevertheless.

"You shall be know as Hollyfang. You will also train as a warrior. Kaizen, step forward. You have heard the vows, do you accept?"

"I do," she said quietly.

"You shall be know as Sagesmoke and train as a hunter from this day forward. And Wish..."

"I do. Thank you for the oppurtunity," Wish replied reverently. Thunderstar smiled, very grateful that someone cared for his work.

"From this day forward, you shall be known as Wishheart. You will train to be a hunter. Now. I expect you all to welcome our new clan members. Bluewisp. Are you ready?"

"Yes," she replied stepping forward. "I have sorted the mates of LakeClan and CaveClan according to the empire's laws. I believe I have made the right choice there and I hope I make the right decision now. Rosejay and myself will continue our roles as queens. Our first pairing will be Tigerstorm and Earthfoot. And our second pair will be Airflight and Cedarlily. That will be all, Bluwisp declared calmly, before stepping back.

At her words, Bubblefur glanced over frantically to Airflight. *This can't be happening.* He was smiling at Cedarlily, across camp, who was glancing down at her paws, clearly flustered.

"They can't do this to me.. I'll make them pay. I'll make them all pay.."

Meanwhile, Bushwind had big plans for the beautiful day. It was only a matter of time before Blitzfire would kit, and he wanted everyone to be aware and prepared of what a queen has to through. He especially wanted to teach them how to use protection.

"Hey Flamespirit! Can I take Ravenkit and Jaykit out today?" Bushwind asked enthusiastically. Flamespirit flipped around with a delighted smile.

"Totally! I'm going hunting with Suntail and Swiftfawn today," Flamespirit explained. She didn't want to seem like she was neglecting her kits. But, she was neglecting her kits.

"Alrighty. I'll take super good are of them! Cloudfire," Bushwind called to her. The queen turned with a confused expression. "I was thinking, you've been working so hard.."

"You're not taking my kits out again! Last time you told them *that* story, they asked me if why I was such a 'player', before they were born!" Cloudfire exclaimed with narrowed eyes. Bushwind scoffed until it fell into a series of chuckles. "You're far too immature to take my kits anywhere!"

"I just want to take them to flat rock," Bushwind whined with wide eyes. Cloudfire tilted her head and somewhat pitied him.

"What will you do there?"

"I want to teach them about herbs. *Herbs* that could save their lives!"

"Very well. I'm going hunting with River beneath the shining moon and Falcon that cries on the mountain. Be back before dark!"

Bushwind squealed and bounded on to round up the kits and Tallcloud. Once they were all together, he began to explain his plans.

"Mother said we were going to flat rock! I don't see a flat rock," Cloverkit challenged with a smirk. Bushwind spun around with a smile.

"Brownie points to you Cloverkit.."

"What's a brownie?"

"Nothing. Twoleg stuff. Now, we're actually going to..."

"Wait for it!" Tallcloud said with suspense.

"The cabin in the woods," Bushwind giggled, trying to project his evil side. All that came out, was gas. "Anyway, future MountainClan heroes!" Bushwind announced, perched on top of a flat rock that overlooked a mountain meadow. "We're gathered here to discuss something that I should have taken care of, forever ago."

"Ummm," Jaykit squeaked, surrounded by his fellow nursery-mates. "What are we dis-dis-,"

"Discussing?" Bushwind asked politely.

"Yeah, that word."

Bushwind grinned. "I'm glad you asked! We're going to talk about something very important to the future of our clans, and something

that every. Single. One of you, have got to know in order to be great citizens of the United MountainClan."

"But wait," Tallcloud, who was sitting in the back, raised a paw. "If this is a kit meeting, why am I here?"

"You're here because Cloudfire thinks I am immature!"

"Ah. Makes sense." Cardinalkit looked up at Bushwind with adorable amber eyes. The rest of the kits followed suit. Tallcloud yawned.

"What's the big thing you need to talk about?" Tallcloud asked. "I need to go hunting with Rivertail, then teach Tawnypaw how to track. Make this quick."

Bushwind sat up straight, and smiled goofily. He looked a little embarrassed.

"Um, yeah. The *Talk*. Well, you know how there have been a lot of problems with..," Bushwind blushed.

"No. Problems with what?" Tallcloud smirked, and looked at the kits. "Because we have no idea what you're talking about."

"I do! I do!" Ravenkit beamed. "Is it dirt? Because mommy said we need to teach ourselves how to wipe out dirt off our.. "

"What about dumb-butts?" Jaykit asked, laughing at the word.

"Or the overwhelming fact that it's only a matter of time before our food sources diminish and StormClan obliterates us?" Cloverkit asked seriously, before smiling again.

"Enough!" Bushwind yelled, silencing them. He looked at Cloverkit. "That's a very good problem, Cloverkit. Although, that's not the problem were discussing today."

"Then what is?" Cardinalkit questioned with a yawn.

"Well," Bushwind started. "You guys are reaching the age where you're going to start to... feel things."

"What kind of things?" Cardinalkit squeaked. "Are they nice?"

Tallcloud lay down, and covered his ears with his paws. *LightClan help us.*

"They're very good," Bushwind promised. "Anywho, you guys are.. growing up, and sooner or later you're going to...meet someone. Like how your parents met each other."

There was a dead silence. Not even the birds were chirping. Tallcloud tried to stick his head in the ground. The kits just froze, bug-eyed.

"As medicine cat, it is my responsibility to teach you this. So we're gonna talk about mating," Bushwind said with an excited smile.

The reaction was almost instant.

"Gross!" Cloverkit gagged, and pretended to puke. She rolled into Tallcloud, who was shaking with silent laughter.

"Mating?" Jaykit yelled. "No way! Never! Get out of here! Ew!"

Cardinalkit just stood as still as a statue, and whispered. "Kits.."

"I like girls," Ravenkit said matter-of-factly. Bushwind tried to restore order. He jumped off the rock and kicked Tallcloud.

"Help me out, Tall-guy!" and to the kits. "You guys better listen up, or... I'll tell Cloudfire!"

One by one, they settled down, though they didn't like it. Tallcloud stuck his head out of the dirt, his muzzle brown, and Bushwind jumped back onto the rock.

"You guys need to know about this stuff," he ordered seriously. "We need a smart, informed generation in MountainClan, or else it'll all go to the pugs!"

"Pugs! What are pugs?"

"Why??" Cardinalkit interrupted, still frozen. "I swear we won't

mate! Ever!"

"Because if you guys don't get educated about...um...safe mating, you'll all end up 10 moons and pregnant! Like Dapplestone!"

"NOOO!!!" Cloverkit cried, and fell flat on her back.

"Hey!" Tallcloud snapped. "Let's leave mothers out of this, ok?"

"We're getting off topic," Bushwind said. "We can't have any apprentices becoming pregnant cats, alright? The more you know, the more you guys can prevent drama! I mean, c'mon, everybody hates pregnant cat drama."

"I like girls," Ravenkit confided to nobody in particular.

"Are you gonna tell us how kits are made?" Cardinalkit asked.

Bushwind nodded. "Yep! I'll need a volunteer, though. Tallcloud?"

"No. Way."

"Please?" Bushwind pleaded. He gave Tallcloud major puppy-dog eyes. "Pretty please with Rivertail on top?"

"That's gross, but fine," Tallcloud murmured. He stepped around the kits and stood on the rock with Bushwind.

"Okay. Now this is an original play by myself," Bushwind said, and put on a brave face. "Hi, little kits! My name's Redstar!"

"Hi Redstar!" The kits said enthusiastically with a bit of side giggles.

"And this is my mate, Dapplestone," Bushwind nodded toward Tallcloud.

"Hi Dapplestone," they said with a lot less enthusiasm.

"Dapplestone and I are mates." Bushwind said. Tallcloud frowned horribly.

"Perfect enthusiasm, Tallcloud-er, Dapplestone! Anywho, because we are mates, we do... grown up mate stuff!"

"Like what, dearest?" Tallcloud said in a sarcastic high voice. The kits laughed.

"Like, have so many kits you can't remember them all!" Bushwind cheered. "It's like a job, almost! But remember kits, you have to be very careful in choosing who you spend the rest of your life with." He shot Tallcloud a look.

Tallcloud jumped. "Yes," he said, voice still as high as he could make it go. "If you aren't careful, you could die."

"Run, Redstar!" Jaykit yelled. "She's gonna eat you!"

Tallcloud pushed Bushwind off the rock.

"Gahh!" Bushwind screamed, rolling around on the ground. "If only I had kept it in my pants!!" He went limp. The kits squealed, and jumped on top of Tallcloud.

"Get her!" Cloverkit giggled, and the rest of the kits started play biting Tallcloud's stomach, and crawling on his head.

"No!!" Tallcloud cried shrilly. "Kits! My only weakness!"

Bushwind sat up, and licked the pollen and dirt off his paws.

"Now, what have you learned about mating, guys?"

"Dapplestone was a meanie. I'm glad she died," Cardinalkit said.

"Be careful who you mate with," Cloverkit guessed with a hopeful grin.

"Never get a mate," said Jaykit.

Ravenkit thought about his answer. "We still don't know how it works. Keep it in your pants? What are pants?"

"3 out of 4!" Bushwind cheered. "I'm such a good teacher. Kits, get off of Tallcloud. We need to get you fluffies back to camp before your moms kills me!" Bushwind exclaimed beckoning them with his fluffy tail.

"Wait! What about the cabin in the woods?" Cloverkit shrieked with a pouty face. Bushwind sighed but glanced at the sky.

"Sorry. Maybe tomorrow!"

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

Bushwind's TALK, was written by CeRosette. She's got a spin off book called, Bushwind's tales of wonder and woe. Check it out.

And! XandarianLord has a petition to official nickname Thunderstar, "king of dumbutts." So check that out because he needs 2/3 of the cats with owners to sign/type it.

Chapter 6

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (NightmareDoge)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Darkwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long

tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. (Wordweaver18) Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes.

(Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. (WarriorCatFan53) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 1 moon. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 1 moon. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 2 moons (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 2 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a

gray tip tail. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green. (GamerGirl13x)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make

her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes. (countrycow22)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Frostpatch- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and

green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Timberfall

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (Whisperflight) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 1 moon.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 2 moons.

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190) Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. (Wolf652) Mentor: Moondust

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Rogues and Refugees-
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange

eyes. (TuftyKat)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. She lost her left leg to infection. (GamerGirl13x)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Expecting Bushwind's kits. (GamerGirl13x)

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12) Kits: Jaykit and Ravenkit

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 2 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons. (BlueTiger666)

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons. (TruthNorthRider)

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons. (LizBot2)

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons. (LizBot2)

When Tallcloud awoke in the warrior's den, he immediately felt the cold air from outside prick his nose. Barely a hairsbreadth from his side, Rivertail shivered. It seemed like the cold of leaf bare had arrived.

Tallcloud stood, stretched the stiffness from his limbs, and left the

den. To his dismay, there was a thin layer of frost that cast over the forest's ground on. It wasn't enough to cover the green of the grass, but it made him worry all the same.

He trotted over to the apprentice's den, and stuck his head inside. He could see Ashpaw asleep on his back, tail twitching, and Bonepaw growling in his sleep. Tearpaw and Echopaw slept peacefully against the den wall. And in the back, was his apprentice.

"Tawnypaw!" Tallcloud whispered. "Wake up!"

Tawnypaw wriggled around, muttering, and flipped over so his back was facing Tallcloud, who smiled. He loved waking up early, so found it funny that not many other cats felt the same way, but now was not the time for games.

"Tawnypaw. Get up, or I'll take someone else for training!" Tallcloud taunted.

A second later, Tawnypaw got to his paws, yawning and blinking rapidly against the sharp light of morning. He frowned.

"It's cold," He shivered. "Why are we training so early, Tallcloud?"

"You'll be going on dawn patrols as a warrior," Tallcloud promised. "It'll be good for you to get used to waking up this early."

Tawnypaw groaned, but hustled out into camp behind Tallcloud. His light brown fur was still sticking up from sleep, so he tried to lick it flat, to no avail.

"You look fine, the squirrels won't judge," Tallcloud chuckled. "Let's go get some prey!"

As they walked out of camp, Olivepaw came crawling out of the nursery. When the medicine cat apprentice saw them, her eyes lit up. She ran over.

"Are you going out?" She asked. "Can you grab some small prey for me? Flamespirit wants to try and get Jaykit and Ravenkit used to prey," She lowered her voice."But don't make it big, because I don't

think the kits are quite yet old enough."

Tallcloud nodded. "Of course! I was taking Tawnypaw here out to get fresh kill anyway."

"We're gonna bring back tons!" Tawnypaw boasted, fluffing out his chest and smiling proudly. Olivepaw rolled her eyes, but she eventually grinned.

"Just don't take all morning," She teased, and turned back to the nursery. "I should be here for a while. Blitzfire has a stomachache and Bushwind is always telling me how important it is to watch your patients."

"Will she be okay?" Tallcloud asked. Blitzfire had been feeling sickly for a few days. *Hopefully it's not their kits. I'd love more kin...*

Olivepaw nodded. "Yeah, it's just morning sickness, no big deal," she assured them before she padded back into the nursery.

"You just watch!" Tawnypaw called. "I'll bring back a whole squirrel!"

"Let's go," Tallcloud said sternly. "And keep your shouting to a minimum, or you'll scare away all the prey."

They ran down the rocky mountainside towards flat rock, where prey was most abundant. This early in the morning, there would be the most active prey. Now that it was bare leaf, they had to rely on flat rock more and more for feeding what was left of the Clan.

"You've hunted before," Tallcloud mewed. "But keep to the easy pickings. We can't waste any time here."

Tawnypaw nodded. "Yes sir!"

The apprentice snuck into the taller grass of the mountain meadow, with the only part of him left visible was the tip of his yellow tail. Tallcloud turned towards the wild oak trees surrounding flat rock, their twisted branches waving in the cold wind, showering the warrior with tiny droplets of dew. Tallcloud chose a tree and scrambled up it with ease. He could already hear a wren hopping

around on its tree limb. Slow as mud, he moved up the tree, his body flat against the trunk. Tallcloud crept onto a limb, and crouched. The wren was nervously hopping, fluffing its little gray feathers.

Tallcloud struck it with his paw, claws unsheathed, and watched with satisfaction as the wren fell to the ground. One down, many more to go! He moved to the next limb, his eyes already catching sight of a squirrel.

"Tallcloud," A sudden voice made Tallcloud nearly fall out of the tree. He dug his claws into the bark as his body hung, now upside-down, from the tree limb. Tallcloud looked over into the next tree.

Watcher that Hides in Trees sat, nearly hidden among the brown leaves of an oak next to Tallcloud's own tree, his large, brown eyes studying.

"Watcher!" Tallcloud huffed, and scrabbled back onto the limb. "You nearly gave me a heart attack!"

The quiet tribe cat ducked his head in apology. "I am sorry, Tall as the Clouds, I was sent to deliver a message to you. I meant no fear." The small, brown-and-black tom frowned. "I thought you saw me."

"It's okay, it's okay," Tallcloud sighed, and climbed down the tree. Watcher that Hides in Trees followed, silently. "What's the message?"

"Bushwind wanted me to tell you that Blitzfire is kitting now," He said solemnly.

"What?" Tallcloud hissed. "The kits are more than half-moon early!"

"Tallcloud?" Tawnypaw mewed nervously, running over with a mouse in his jaws. "What hwappened? Was' 'wong?"

"Blitzfire is kitting!" Tallcloud yelled. "We have to get back to camp!"

Forgetting his wren, Tallcloud ran out of flat rock, barely checking to see if Watcher and Tawnypaw were following. He had to get to

camp, and be there for Bushwind and Blitzfire. Olivepaw had said that Blitzfire had been feeling it. *Oh LightClan..*

Time seemed to speed up, and Tallcloud felt like he had reached camp in an instant. He could see cats running around, kits being ushered out of the nursery, Olivepaw running back and forth between the medicine cat den and the nursery, and all the while Tallcloud could hear Blitzfire's pained cries.

Not sure what he should be doing, he looked for a cat that didn't seem busy. Rivertail was gathered with Beestorm and Suntail, so he ran over there.

"Thank LightClan you're here!" Rivertail sighed with relief, and brushed her muzzle against his.

"It hasn't been very long, so the kits aren't here yet. Shymask is with her. Olivepaw and Bushwind are doing what they can," Cloudfire explained to the others. She had been the only other one in the nursery when Blitzfire started having painful contractions and bleeding.

"They're really early, though," Suntail noted, looking anxious. "I don't know anything about kitting, but didn't Bushwind say it'd take at least two an a half moons?"

"How is Bushwind?" Tallcloud asked, "How's he taking it?"

Beestorm shrugged. "Hard to tell. He got this really serious, intense look on his face, and he's been in default medicine cat mode ever since."

"I think he's scared," Rivertail clawed at the ground anxiously. "But we all are. Blitzfire's really sick."

As if on cue, they heard an agonized shriek from the nursery. The four kits, all huddled against Cloudfire, and she covered their ears in fright. Tallcloud wished he could do the same, but he just paced back and forth with the other warriors, and prayed that LightClan would help them.

MountainClan had never had an early kitting, or any real birth

complications, but then again nothing seemed to be going right for them. *Is it some kind of sign?* Tallcloud hoped not.

Olivepaw ran out of the nursery again, but she didn't stop to chat. She to the medicine stores and came back with a clump of moss in her teeth.

"Is everything okay?" Tallcloud asked her. Olivepaw simply shook her head, and ran back into the nursery.

Swiftfawn came into camp, with Flamespirit at her heels.

"Mommy?" Ravenkit squeaked, removing his paws from his ears.

"Not right now, Ravenkit," Flamespirit snapped. "Mommy has warrior business."

"Tallcloud," Swiftfawn walked over to the four warriors. "What's going on?"

"Blitzfire's kitting early," Tallcloud explained. "That's all we know."

Swiftfawn closed her eyes, and raised her head to the sky. She looked tired, but Tallcloud could tell that she held troublesome thoughts.

"Well, we might as well get on with our duties," Swiftfawn suggested. "The Clan can't stop because one cat is kitting. And when she's done, she'll need some prey. Rivertail and Beestorm, come with us," she said, referring to herself and Flamespirit. "The fresh-kill pile is looking a little empty."

"Who put her in charge?" Tallcloud growled quietly as the hunting group left. "Her name's not Swiftstar." He paced angrily, wanting to go do something but not sure what he should be doing. *I wish I knew what to do.*

"Don't be mad dude," Suntail advised. "She has a point. We can't just sit here all day, no matter who is in that nursery. We have to do what we can."

Suntail walked towards where the apprentices were horsing around.

"I think I'll take the 'paws' out for a little fighting practice. I could use a friend?"

Tallcloud ached to go and join Suntail and the apprentices, but wanted to stay for his friend even more. He was torn. Before he could open his mouth to reply, Falcon that Cries on the Mountain spoke up.

"Tall as the Clouds can stay for his kin," The young tribe cat said, jumping down from the rock on which he had been sitting. "Perhaps I can assist you in training the apprentices, Sun that sets?"

Suntail nodded but gave a curt nod to Tallcloud, and led the apprentices out of camp. Tallcloud tried to focus on Blitzfire and the kits. He got up, and thought about helping Cloudfire distract the kits, when he heard Blitzfire wail.

Acting on instinct, he ran towards the nursery, but was blocked by Olivepaw. The medicine cat apprentice's paw and muzzle were covered in blood, and her eyes were wide with worry.

"You can't come in," She pleaded. "Tallcloud please,"

But Tallcloud didn't hear her. He had seen enough over her shoulder. Numbly, he nodded, and walked only a few steps before his legs collapsed beneath him. His head swam, but not enough to distract him from what he had seen.

There had been two kits next to Blitzfire, who had been shaking with pain and effort. One of them was a tom so frail and tiny that Tallcloud could see the kit's ribs and the nubs of his spine. The kit was the size of a shriveled walnut. The other kit, whose gender Tallcloud, could not pick out, was no bigger, but missing its tail. It had had a twisted jaw.

Both kits were dead.

Tallcloud closed his eyes and tried to think about something else. *The kits are with LightClan*. He told himself. *Poor Blitzfire. And, Bushwind had been so excited for them, so excited to be a great father...*

He didn't know how long he had slept, but when he opened his eyes

the sun was low in the sky. Tallcloud felt a presence next to him. It was Bushwind.

Bushwind's emerald eyes were ringed with shadow, and his gray fur was sticking up in the back. Tallcloud thought that in the shadows cast by the sun, his friend looked like an elder.

"I'm sorry about your kits, Bushwind," Tallcloud said, putting his tail o Bushwind's shoulder. Bushwind barely moved. His face was deadpan, and hollow.

"Yeah," Bushwind finally said in a cracked voice. "There wasn't much we could do anyway. The kits weren't...they weren't strong enough to breath. They were already dying. Olivepaw and I, I mean...had to," He stopped, his voice wavering. "We gave them enough poppy seed to send them to LightClan."

"How's Blitzfire?" Tallcloud couldn't think of anything else to say other than sorry and a few lame apologies that wouldn't help anyone.

"She's asleep. Shymask is with her. Olivepaw too. They thought I should sleep." Bushwind did look tired, but Tallcloud saw that sleep seemed to be the furthest thing from Bushwind's mind.

"What happens now?" Tallcloud thought aloud, looking up at the sky, which was just beginning to fill up with stars. Bushwind shrugged, and slowly lay down, defeated.

"Who cares? Nothing good. Nothing I can heal," Bushwind muttered. "It's not like LightClan will tell me, anyway." The medicine cat fell into a fitful, fevered sleep.

When Bushwind did fall asleep, he woke up right away, in a meadow. The stars were abnormally bright but he only noticed the one cat.

"Horsetail.."

"Bushwind. You know what killed those kits. If you ever want to have a family, you'll have to sacrifice it for them.."

"Wait! Horsetail," but it was too late. He woke violently in his nest, soaked with sweat and he began to shed tears. He glanced around the den, and spotted the tiny purple stalks that he had been eating for so long. *It's all my fault. I killed our kits.*

Gem ran, breathless, away from the trees. Howls and vile words were all that she heard. She kept running. *Another dream...* She told herself. Ever since she had narrowly escaped death from Thunderstar, she had nightmares, hallucinations and visions of some sort.

She had ran away with Hawk and RogueClan that night. Lostpath buried Maliceflame's body, but Gem didn't join in on her friend's vigil. She had too many questions to ask hawk that night.

"What was that?"

"You shouldn't worry about it. You're not necessary yet," he had replied coldly.

"Get out of my clan!"

"It's our clan. While you take time to sort out your emotional affairs, I'll be getting to work."

And now Hawk had disappeared from RogueClan. She didn't understand it. But she knew she needed to get away, far away, from everything. What am I going to do?

She had dedicated her life to stopping the endless tyranny of leaders, but now she plunged herself into a prophecy. *No mystical cats decide what my future is*. Gem decided quickly.

The brisk chill of leaf-fall made it harder for her to run, so she kept on until she could find a spot to hide. A nearby overhanging rock amidst trees and thick brush seemed perfect to her, so she hid there.

Gem cursed herself. There was so much going on, she didn't know what was happening. The Clans were all twisted upside down, and now she was in no position to help her own group. It made her want to scream.

The deep scratches on her muzzle came to her attention. She couldn't treat them, and tried to lick them clean with her paw. Somehow Thunderstar had followed them, and broken them up. Gem would never admit it, but she knew that her father had been right. She was acting like a brat; too focused on her own problems. That's all I am, dad. That's all I'll ever be. A brat set on being a hero.

Where are you now? Vulturestar had taken one of Thunderstar's lives and fled to who knows where. She was the only other one who knew Thunderstar had lost two lives that night, not one. Her father had sensed her presence that night, and said goodbye. Gem wouldn't grieve for him, she refused, after all he did to her. It was stressful more than anything. *How could you disappear?*

"Where the fox-dung are you?" She said to herself. "Everything's a mess, and everyone is in danger. Well, everyone but you."

There were still cats in RogueClan, she would go back to where they had just recently camped, and talk to them about what Hawk said.

"The greatest leader of all time? Huh?" Gem scoffed but still didn't know who Hawk was talking about. There were plenty of great leaders who were dead. *Why am I the sacrifice?* She wasn't wiling to die for something she didn't believe in.

The sound of a running cat made Gem hide back under the rock. A small, black she cat whizzed by, running towards LakeClan. Gem's eyes narrowed. *StormClan. Hopefully she won't bump into any of my cats*.

Blackpaw ran on the normal route towards LakeClan, repeating Airflight's message in her mind. She was to run in, tell Shadowstar that Thunderstar was coming to camp in a few days to organize the cats into specific positions to specialize the clan. Groups of warriors, hunters, and messengers were to be given their duties as soon as possible.

The thought of seeing her old clan-mates again filled her with a mix of excitement and dread, but not as much as knowing Thunderstar was going to be in LakeClan camp in a day or two. And even bigger

than that, the knowledge that she was delivering this sickening news.

This was her first run alone, and Blackpaw was determined to do it right. Airflight seemed to have a growing faith in her, but still had a couple of snarky comments.

For the most part, StormClan wasn't that awful. The other apprentices were however, "workaholics", always trying to please their mentors. Only Cherrypaw and Bluepaw had given her trouble so far. For the most part, the older cats were very encouraging. Grumpy, but encouraging. Thunderstar was still a horrible cat in her eyes, but she couldn't really change that.

As she ran faster along the path, cold winds blew around her, whipping her fur and new scents in all directions. She recognized most of them as LakeClan scents, and even caught a whiff of LakeClan cats. However, there was a scent that made her heart thump faster in her chest. *Blood.* But she kept running, more afraid of wasting time than investigating.

That was until she caught sight of a strange cat running a few yards away on her right, almost hidden behind tall marshy plants. Blackpaw could barely see the cat's features, but she could tell the cat wasn't anyone she knew.

Blackpaw kept running, tapping into her extra stamina, a trick that allowed the messengers to sprint more quickly, but made them grow tired faster. She took deep breaths, but her lungs started to burn. Eventually, Blackpaw would have to stop for a break.

Suddenly, in a split second, Blackpaw was hit from the side, knocking the wind out of her. She hit the ground in a daze, head spinning and breath short. Panting, mind whirling, she tried to catch sight of her attacker.

"Don't kill me!" She panted, "I'm a messenger... for StormClan!"

A cat, the same cat she had seen before, stepped into her blurry view. It was a tom, with gray fur and blue eyes that happened to be blood shot, from either lack of sleep or fatigue. He didn't seemed

hostile. Don't trust strangers! She told herself. But there was something about him, perhaps a glint in his grin, that made her vulnerable.

"Are you okay?" He asked, also panting. "You kind of came out of nowhere."

Blackpaw gave a tired laugh. "Sorry. I'm in a rush!" She got to her feet, wincing at the pain in her shoulder. "I gotta go. Be careful around these lands, rogue."

However, as she began to leave the tom stopped her, and bowed his head submissively. "I'm sorry. I was also rushing.. But I'm kinda tired. Silly dreams have been keeping me up."

This made Blackpaw pause. *A dream? Maybe it's the same ones she receives?* Maybe, but a lot of cats had dreams that meant nothing at all, so Blackpaw decided to play it cool.

"We all have dreams. What makes yours different?" She asked curiously, while stretching her legs.

The tom shook his head. "My dreams are different."

"How? Was it scary?" She joked with a smirk. *It's time*, she told herself, preparing to take off again.

"Wait!" The tom said, blocking Blackpaw's path, once. "Do you know anyone named-,"

"Sorry, but I don't care!" Blackpaw snapped suddenly. "I have to get back by sundown or I miss dinner.."

Instead of looking hurt, the tom laughed. "You sound just like her, but you look like him.."

Blackpaw paused. "Who are..? I have no idea what you're talking about."

The tom smiled, eager to have her attention. "Let me start over." He sat down, and started when Blackpaw sat as well.

"I'll make this quick. I'm Hawk, and I've been a rogue forever, since I was born 18 moons ago. 6 moons ago, I started having these dreams. They made no sense to me. A black furred tom appeared and said.. 'go to the clans'. I've never wanted to be apart of clans, so I came and joined RogueClan. No strict rules, no stress and I can leave anytime I want.."

"What about me? Isn't StormClan your enemy?" Blackpaw questioned quietly. She thought becoming apart of StormClan would make cats hate her. *Why hasn't he killed me?*

"You're different. Only tyranny is my enemy. Every cat is equal. That's the way it should be. That's the way it will be.."

Blackpaw nodded. "Makes sense. So your dreams?"

"They're about these two cats. Really old cats. Then I get these cryptic messages.. it's really strange," he explained glancing down at his paws.

"I.. I get them too," Blackpaw admitted quietly. Hawk glanced up with wide eyes.

"Really?"

"Yeah. But I don't know what they mean."

Hawk grimaced. "I have to go, and don't you.."

"Oh fox-brain!" Blackpaw shot up. I have to go!" She streaked away towards LakeClan. He trotted after her trying to keep up.

"You know, you can catch you something to eat if you're late," Hawk said, trying to comfort her nerves. Blackpaw stopped and looked at him, immediately embarrassed.

"I don't know how. We're not allowed to learn until we've master our first craft. And.. I think it keeps everyone under Thunderstar's claws," she explained sadly. She hated only being able to run. Everyone except the kits and her knew how to hunt.

"Hey! Next time you're up by CaveClan territory, maybe I'll teach

you! I've had tons of practice and if you're mentor won't, someone has to," Hawk offered with a smile. Blackpaw felt it all very tempting. She wanted to be able to be a true warrior. *Hunter, Warrior, and Messenger*.

"I couldn't ask that of you.."

"No really! I have nothing else to do!" Hawk exclaimed glancing around the landscape. Blackpaw nodded and looked back up.

"As long as it's not an inconvenience. After all, I'm StormClan.. See you later, maybe?" She called over her shoulder.

Hawk nodded. "Yeah! See ya!" That was so close, he thought licking the blood off his claws. He walked back over to inspect the body.

He had attacked the apprentice right before Blackpaw had sprinted into view. Now, the young ginger tom was dead. Since he was an innocent soul, Hawk spared him of the brutal death he gave to Nightjet, and sliced his throat. *One down, seven to go...*

R.I.P. TOM KIT and KIT

I'm sorry. Truly. We will all remember you. Your parents will certainly.

R.I.P. MARSHPAW

This young Tom was hopeful for a new beginning, but as we read, it didn't end very well. We will remember you.

@Wolf652 thank you for the time you did spend with us. Marshpaw will be remembered.

Chapter 7

Allegiances

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Darkwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long

tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Cherrypaw- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. (Wordweaver18) Mentor: Rosejay

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes.

(Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. (WarriorCatFan53) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 1 moon. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 1 moon. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 2 moons (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 2 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons.

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a

gray tip tail. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green. (GamerGirl13x)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make

her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes. (countrycow22)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Frostpatch- a gray and white tabby furred she cat with grey eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Darkomen

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Fierceclaw

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and

green eyes. Mentor: Twistedfoot

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Timberfall

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (Whisperflight) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 1 moon.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 2 moons.

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190) Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Rogues and Refugees-

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. She lost her left leg to infection. (GamerGirl13x)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12) Kits: Jaykit and Ravenkit

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 2 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. 30 moons. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. 48 moons. (BlueTiger666)

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. 37 moons. (TruthNorthRider)

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. 40 moons. (LizBot2)

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. 22 moons. (LizBot2)

Several days had passed, and things were only getting worse for CaveClan. CaveClan had three cats missing, which only added tension to the new restrictions Thunderstar was placing on the provinces.

Cinderstar watched his daughters, as he sat quietly beside his mate, Blackfire. The she cat was pleased to finally have a time to rest. She had been up frequently the past few days, feeling hungry and light headed.

The girls were almost three moons old. Darkkit was the oldest and had dark gray silky fur like her mother, and deep blue eyes. While Hazelkit had fluffy brown fur and hazel eyes. Darkkit, was naturally bigger, but Hazelkit also but a lot of enthusiasm into her play. They kept up with each other.

"Who in your family had brown fur?" Cinderstar asked quietly. Blackfire opened one eyes and smiled.

"None of them did. It must be your family genes," she whispered with a smirk. Yet, she was focused on napping and only that.

"Cinderstar... can we go play outside? It's too stuffy in here," Darkkit asked meekly with wide eyes. She didn't want to upset her father in such stressful times.

"I'm afraid you'll have to stay in here. It's too dangerous to play outside," Cinderstar said briefly, glancing out the camp exit. The sky was gloomly, and they were expecting StormClan, anytime now.

"Okay. But, will you tell us a story? Or about how you became leader?" Hazelkit squeaked, crawling over to sit by her. Darkkit followed and they smiled anxiously at their father. Most times, he was too busy to tell them stories, but now he had no excuse.

"I had friends.."

"Cinderstar, are you okay?" Darkkit whispered with wide eyes. Her father wanted to tell them. He wanted to admit right there, that he wasn't fine. *Darktide. Icywind. Coldstar. Spiderstar. And Skystar. All dead because I'm a coward...*

"I'm fine. Blackfire, I have to get some fresh air," he said with squinted eyes. Grief was drowning him. He had to get away, for an hour or two.

"Alright. Is there anything I can do.."

"NO!" He snapped. As his tone slipped out, he cringed and pulled back. The damage had already been done to his family.

"Say goodbye to your father, girls," Blackfire instructed them, before

walking away. Darkkit gave him a curt nod before darting away. Hazelkit, however, stayed at his side quietly.

"I love you daddy. I hope you feel better soon," she squealed before hugging his large front paw. He felt a fondness and favoritism toward Hazelkit from that day on.

After the kits were back in the nursery, he exited camp and breathed in a big guest of air. The wind blew through his thick pelt, and he examined the wind's news. The missing cat's were long gone. Shymask told him that she was going to find MountainClan, to visit her daughter and join their ranks. She wasn't surprised nor remorseful about Fairshade replacing her as deputy. In fact, she was glad.

"Cinderstar, you have to speak with StormClan.."

"No! I will not implicate this clan just for your silly fantasies. This she cat that you adore-"

"Gem."

"She is a fierce enemy of StormClan and will die soon. You better not place your heart with her," Cinderstar advised, trying to be tolerant. *I thought he was different. I thought he was above his age*.

"I want to be with her. *Not Palesky*!"

"That's enough! I won't accept your childish attitude. Forget that she cat or leave my clan. I can't have my successor worrying about she cats when cats have died! Died to prevent what is happening now! I won't have your mind in other places. We need to stop these provinces, and claim back our clan, before you can worry about she cats," Cinderstar threatened heavily. The clan had bigger things to worry about than his love life.

"Yes, Cinderstar," Fairshade replied coldly. "What are we going to do? Let StormClan starve us?"

"I can't let this clan face the same fate that MountainClan did. If we were to ever take action I'd need more assurance, more forces and a hero. We need a cat to face Thunderstar. Someone to face him, and

after this, takeover StormClan's province and make it the fourth clan that it was meant to be."

"You're suggesting a symbol?" Fairshade questioned curiously. *Perhaps this will work. But Thunderstar can't just be stopped by a symbol.*

"No. More than that, they need to be a cat of great leadership skills. Perhaps Twistedfoot?"

"No. Certainly not, Cinderstar. He killed our brother. And he's not a leader!"

"Do you have any better ideas? StormClan is loyal to their own."

"Sleetpool. She was Vulturestar's deputy. She knows Thunderstar is nuts and she would easily restore the clans for the sake of her family," Fairshade declared triumphantly. Cinderstar nodded in agreement. Now, they only needed her on their side.

"I'll speak to her as soon as I can. However, we need to find Honeysuckle and Frostpatch. Cloudflight, Darkomen, Palesky and Fierceclaw would like to go on the patrol to find them. They've all approached me individually and I can't deny them wanting to help others," Cinderstar replied earnestly. Fairshade nodded in agreement and they set off to address the others.

Meanwhile Blackpaw confined her mission of the day. Airflight demanded that she run around the lake for experience.

She had started north, heading for CaveClan's shore. Her heart thudded violently in her chest as she sped by. Her running skills had increased greatly, but she didn't want to just be a runner.

Blackpaw silently hoped that she would run into Hawk. Her new friend had promised that he would teach her how to hunt and fight, so that one day she could survive independently. However, it'd been a week and she still hadn't seen him again.

Stop it. Blackpaw told herself. *You'll learn. It'll be fine*. But it wasn't. In fact, she was to face something that required what she lacked.

As she glanced at the river depersonalize CaveClan and LakeClan provinces, she wondered what action should she take. She had no idea how to swim, and didn't want to try to take the massive leaps between the shallow ends. The current will devour me, she thought as she spun around.

There was a rustle in the leaves, behind her. As soon as she faced the source, she was brought to the ground without mercy.

"She's StormClan! I smell it all over her," a white she cat called back. She had Blackpaw pinned to the ground, even though they were about the same size. Soon, the she cat's accomplices came into view.

"Tearpaw, stay back," a golden furred Tom pleaded. But, the older light brown she cat contradicted this.

"No. This is good practice. In fact, you should kill her," the she cat said with little remorse.

"NO! Please! I'm just a messenger.. I'm not loyal to Thunderstar, please," Blackpaw begged as she saw the gleam in the older she cat's eyes. *They want me dead. This sucks*.

"Tearpaw, don't listen to Swiftfawn. I haven't even killed a cat. MountainClan cats don't kill.."

"Were you there?" Tearpaw asked her suddenly. Blackpaw squinted in confusion.

"What?"

"The battle my dad died at. Were you there?" Tearpaw repeated.

"No! I've never been in a battle before. I was LakeClan until a moon ago." at Blackpaw's words, Tearpaw let her go and quickly went back to Suntail's side. "I thought you guys died."

"We did," Suntail replied with narrowed eyes. Blackpaw quickly caught on and gave a nod. "You said you're not loyal to Thunderstar? Then who are you loyal to?"

"I don't know," Blackpaw admitted quietly. "My family, my friends. Cats that won't kill other cats."

"That's the problem with cats like you," Swiftfawn declared, stepping toward her with a scowl. "You can't decide. You can't fight for what you want."

"Why do we have to fight?" Blackpaw exclaimed glanced between them. Swiftfawn spat than turned away.

"Because they took everything from us. All my friends are dead!"

"My mom is dead!"

"Enough. My dad wouldn't want us fighting like this. What's your name?" Tearpaw said calmly switching the topic.

"Blackpaw."

"Listen. MountainClan just wants things to be the way they were. Were willing to take down Thunderstar, but we'll need help communicating with the other clans," Suntail pointed out with a hopeful mood.

"Could you help us?" Tearpaw asked.

"I... I guess. But I could never fight anyone. I'm not a warrior.."

"All you have to do, is deliver messages to specific cats. If you accept, come to the same place tomorrow," Swiftfawn decided glancing back at the others. They nodded in agreement and Tearpaw stepped forward.

"I'm sorry if this is a lot to ask. But when this is over, everyone will live in harmony. Nobody will have the right to kill cats.."

"Well. I guess that sounds good. Goodbye," Blackpaw said briefly before sprinting off into the woods. Tearpaw's support was very comforting. The new she cat reminded her a lot of her best friend, Winterpaw.

Blackpaw came to a trot as she entered LakeClan territory and

smelled the air. She was sure the apprentices would be out at the time. The older warriors were probably sharing tongues while the younger warriors took out their apprentices. She sighed and focused on her journey. *It'll only make you sad.*

"Blackpaw!" A voice interrupted her thoughts, in a whisper. She spun around to see a fluffy white she cat with bright blue eyes.

"Winterpaw, is it really you?" Blackpaw exclaimed with a smile. She had missed her friends a lot. The other apprentices weren't exactly the most welcoming.

"Blackpaw. We don't have time for that. I need to warn you," Winterpaw began. She bore red-shot eyes, and her paws trembled as she murmured the words. "Marshpaw was murdered."

"What!"

"Rotting flesh cover any scent. Oh Blackpaw! It was horrible. His body was mangled and.."

"You don't have to go on."

"I do! Blackpaw, I heard Dragonstone and Mistyshine talking. They said it was a rogue's scent that they recognized. A rogue coming after StormClan... You're going to get hurt!" She said with fear in her eyes. Blackpaw was the sister Winterpaw never had.

"Don't worry about me. Keep LakeClan safe. Thunderstar is coming tomorrow, I believe. Good luck," Blackpaw wished her before glancing toward StormClan.

"Be safe."

Back in the former MountainClan territory, a she cat coughed violently. She gazed at around in a dizzy phase. The leaves seemed to engulf her in a psychedelic vision. Spinning. Spinning.

"Stay away. Find Honeysuckle," Frostpatch murmured to herself, quickly looking back at her paws. She felt nauseous and more horrible than she had ever felt. She felt a boiling in her mind as a sharp ringing filled her ears. She screamed and screamed. "What's

wrong with me!"

The forestry haze and visions continued until Frostpath felt her stomach twist, and she began to gag. She then vomited all that she had for lunch. The acidic and rotten smell filled her nostrils and she convulsed again.

"You're sick?" A voice said somewhere. Frostpath glanced up and around. She couldn't see the cat. In fact, her blurred vision prevented her from seeing anyone.

"My mother.."

"She's dead by now. Was she sick too?"

"What! No," Frostpatch coughed. "Just a cough. She's alive."

"Shhh... Shh. It'll all be over soon," the voice sang. Frostpatch's breathing started to become shallow and rapid, when she felt a sharp pain seared down her flank. She let out a yelp, but death was very quick.

"FROSTPATCH! I heard her.."

"Your friends are coming. For their sake, I hope they don't bury your body," he whispered before disappearing into the nearby brush pile. As the patrol came closer, he hid tighter and closed his bright eyes.

"No! No!" Cloudflight screamed as he saw the body of his dead sister. He rushed over, followed by Darkomen. Fierceclaw and Palesky stayed behind, wary of the territory. *StormClan could be anywhere*, Fierceclaw thought silently.

"This just happened. The wounds haven't even clotted yet," Darkomen observed, following the trail of blood which lead to the bush. *Oh LightClan*... "Cloudflight, you'd better go find Sparrowfeather, *now*."

"But,"

"Go!" Fierceclaw urged, catching onto Darkomen's wordplay. As

soon as he was out of sight, Darkomen spun around to face the bush. However, the culprit was not daft.

Claws dug into Darkomen's back an he howled in pain. Fierceclaw and Palesky barreled forward, but the attacker used Darkomen's weight against him, pushing him into the two. As they collided, Palesky slipped out from underneath and took her first strike. Her speed and courage surprised him, and he took a deep scratch to his cheek. *Stay on task*.

Instead of engaging Palesky, he charged toward Darkomen and rolled under the Tom at the right point, slitting his throat. The CaveClan warrior gasped and he faltered in pain.

"Go! Run!" Darkomen demanded. Fierceclaw and Palesky did not want to argue with his senior authority and bolted. However, Darkomen's fate had already been sealed.

The Tom took his other claws across his stomach and the tedious process of death, gradually became quicker. *Three down. Five to go*.

Palesky and Fierceclaw kept running, oblivious that the threat was no longer pursuing them. "Fierceclaw, it's StormClan territory!"

"Keeping going," he replied as he hurdled over a path of thorns. The two continued valiantly until they stumbled into the worst place possible.

"What are you doing out of your province?" A voice sneered as they stepped into a dark creek. The two stopped and peered around, observing the many StormClan cats in the process of battle training.

"There's a rogue! He killed our warriors! You have to help," Palesky pleaded glancing around at the your faces. They were unsure, and unaware of what measures to take.

"Silence!" A voice echoed harshly. Suddenly, a large gray tabby Tom emerged from behind one of the stones, where he was viewing the training. He glares at the two closely before chuckling. "I don't have to do anything."

"But!"

"Crimsonpaw and Cherrypaw. Demonstrate the new tactic on this she cat. Speaking out, will result in punishment," he replied. He summoned the two apprentices with a flick of the tail and they trotted over. Both bore eyes of ambition and both seemed blood thirsty.

"Thunderstar, don't. I'll deal with this. I take responsibility. We should've never left our territory.."

"You should've never left StormClan, Fierceclaw. And keep in mind, that all territory belongs to me. You're allowed to use it. Now, girls..."

Crimsonpaw shot forward first and grabbed Palesky by her scruff. As she slightly elevated her, she kicked out her hind legs and dropped her scruff. This all happened very fast. Then, Cherrypaw took action and pounced on her, piercing her claws into her pelt, then pinning her down.

Palesky scoffed and spat at her half-sister, who was quite younger than her. She was determined to get back to her clan, for her sake.

"You look like Redstar," Palesky smirked, making her and recognize her true father. Her Amber eyes flared. Words were Cherrypaw's weakness and her focus and strength crumbled.

"I hate him! I hate you!" She shrieked preparing to come down with sharper claws. As she did, Palesky through her off and into the creek bed. Wasting no moment, she shot over to Cherrypaw and pushed her head deeper into the water.

Palesky contemplating letting her go. She wanted to. She would. But she knew that this she cat would never change. *All she knows is hate. It'd be better if she were never born.*

As the minute drew by, Cherrypaw's kicking because weaker and weaker, and she eventually became completely still. Not even a heartbeat.

"Excellent!"

Palesky spun around to face Thunderstar, who seemed to be

congratulating her for killing one of his warriors. *What?* "You perfectly demonstrated one of the techniques we've been working on today. You are your mother's daughter."

It wasn't until then that she noticed, Fiereclaw's body, bleeding out behind Thunderstar. His legs were broken, so he couldn't move, but he could see it all. She swallowed but couldn't help shuddering, knowing what was to come.

"Unfortunately, *Palesky*? Is it? You're a very strong spirit. But that's precisely why, I'm going to kill you," Thunderstar admitted simply as he slowly stepped closer toward her. She shuddered in fear. The last thing she wanted to do was die.

He looked straight into her eyes and smiled. "I'll make it quick."

And with a silent blow, he did as he promised.

R.I.P. FROSTPATCH

Her only fault was love for her mother, and straying from her clan. May this she cat live forever in the stars.

R.I.P. DARKOMEN

Darkomen came to CaveClan with a lot of grief, but quickly lost that as he fell in love with his former leader, Coldstar. When she died, he became determined to make CaveClan survive and worked tirelessly with his clan mates.

R.I.P. CHERRYPAW

Born of Redstar and Dapplestone, her mother killed their father after only a week after birth. Her destiny wasn't a bright one, when kidnapped by her mother and taken to StormClan.

Manipulated and refined, she became a sassy cat with little remorse for anyone except her friends. Her hatred was not her own. But I doubt she will get close to LightClan.

wordweaver18 Thank you for the time you've spent with us!

R.I.P. PALESKY

This exceptional warrior had all the right intentions. She wanted to be the best, fight for her clan, and stick on the righteous path. All this, would've worked for her if she was not daughter of Dapplestone.

We will remember your valor, your awesome name, and your bright blue eyes forever!

R.I.P. FIERCECLAW

Former rogue, Robb, came to the clans as every cat did. Hungry. When he stumbled about the former VoidClan it seemed liked a good idea to him. Until he was dispatched to be a spy in DarkClan. Fierceclaw was determined to make Voidstar proud and prove himself until he realized what a real clan should be. Until, he met Sleetpool.

countrycow22 Thank you for taking in the cats you did, and making them into so much more. Without you, Sleetpool and Fierceclaw wouldn't have had their charming Tom litter. We will remember the great warrior and father that Fierceclaw was.

Thank you for reading, voting, and commenting.

Please let me know of any errors, I'm rushing to publish this for you. And let me know, who will die next?

Chapter 8

Allegiances:
(Shortened to just show the Clans that participate in the chapter below.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes.

(LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes.

(Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. (WarriorCatFan53) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 1 moon. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 1 moon. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 2 moons (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 2 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 2 moons. (helloilovecats)

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 3 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 3 moons. (vanessa8101)

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 3 moons. (Kat124816)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Her sister's cold blue eyes stared back at her. *I thought you were safe. I did this to ensure you were safe...* Now her pale, cream fur, lay stained with blood and flies. She had not decomposed yet, but she needed to be buried quickly.

"Thornfrost! You're needed back at camp," Airflight reported quickly. She didn't respond. "I hate to..."

"She's my sister..."

"I'll help you bury them. Fierceclaw was my friend," Foxheart said as he walked into view. Airflight acknowledged the excuse and headed off. With Thunderstar being absent for the day, he wouldn't know if his orders were obeyed or not. Besides, the apprentices needed a break.

"I'm tired of this. My mom is dead, my sister, probably my brother,

whose next?" Thornfrost spat as she began to dig a large hole, far from the creek bed. Foxheart glanced up and bore the same expression.

"I'm worried for my family more than ever. Steelpaw said that your sister was trying to warn them about a rogue. What if she's right?" Foxheart asked with concerned eyes, and nervous paws. The two glanced at each other quietly until Thornfrost spoke again.

"Can you do something for me?"

"What is it?" Foxheart asked quickly intrigued.

"I need you to find MountainClan," Thornfrost requested adamantly.

"They've been trying for moons. MountainClan's few survivors have disappeared and left the forest.."

"That's what Thunderstar wants you to think. Use your brain and put the pieces together. He won't hesitate to kill anyone. He let Cherrypaw die yesterday!" She spat boldly. "He doesn't care about your family at all. He never cared for mine.."

"But your his daughter. That's different than everyone else."

"Is it?" She challenged heavily.

"I don't know. All I know, is that I can't leave them."

"If you don't, this rogue will kill them. I've heard the rumors. He's set on destroying what StormClan believes in, and do you think he'll stop at Rosejay? Or your kits?"

"Please. I can't leave. I'll never find them," Foxheart pleaded. He was afraid. He wasn't ready to go who knows where to find a missing clan.

"You *will* find them. If you don't, I won't welcome you back. Now go!"

"I can't even say goodbye?"

"Fine! Go say goodbye or goodnight or whatever. Just be gone by nightfall," Thornfrost decided as she dragged her sister's body into her grave. Foxheart did the same but frowned at her.

"Why don't you do this?" Foxheart questioned curiously.

"Because Thunderstar would suspect a rebellion. If I stay, I can keep an eye on him," she replied glancing back to StormClan territory. It was very quiet and cold. The creek was filled with fallen leaves of the shades of autumn.

"You can't do this on your own."

"That's why you're finding MountainClan. I need to speak with Swiftfawn. Then CaveClan, and LakeClan. I can stop him."

"You can try."

Meanwhile Blackpaw walked around MountainClan territory without purpose. Airflight was busy and had allowed her a free day. She decided that she needed to learn how to hunt and she would do just that.

As she trotted along the shore, she spotted a small vole, drinking from a tiny puddle. It was small, and preparing for the threat of leaf bare.

Blackpaw took a deep breath before sinking into a hunter's crouch. It seemed somewhat unnatural to her, since her running stance was different. She slowly stepped forward, but something must've been wrong. The vole saw her, and skittered away.

"Wow. You need my help."

"Hawk!" Blackpaw exclaimed spinning around. Sure enough, the silver Tom sat silently, watching. "I thought you forgot about me."

"No. I've just been busy. How about you?" He asked, before licking his paw.

"Yes. Thunderstar is visiting LakeClan today. In attempt to give them formal positions," Blackpaw explained gloomily. She hated the

idea. It meant that certain cats could never hunt, or battle.

"Tragic. RogueClan would usually intercept them, but, I have to help you today."

"Why today? It's been almost a half moon!"

"The moon is not finished yet. And as I said, I had work to do. LakeClan will fair fine. CaveClan however..."

"What do you mean?"

"Don't run there anymore. Trust me. Endure any punishment that may come to you, but don't go near their territory," Hawk advised strictly. She was afraid now, but focused on what he came there to do.

"I need to learn how to hunt and fight."

"You don't need to learn how to hunt when you have a clan."

"I want to. I need to."

"Fine. I'll teach you both. I'm not going to follow you on hunts though. You'll have to do that on your own time. Now show me your hunter's crouch."

Blackpaw nodded and bent into it, trying to position her paws evenly. It still felt awkward.

"Now watch me," Hawk instructed. He bent down closer to the ground, yet on the toes of his paws. "Never fully plant your feet. Yet, stay low to the ground as possible. It will also give you an extra boost."

Hawk nodded, coming to his feet and watched as she tried it again. She remembered to stay on her toes, but found it hard since the crouch was so low.

"The basic hunter's crouch is the basis of hunting, running, and battling. Once you learn it, you will be average. The next elements develop over time. Your sense of smell, and strategy is crucial to all

of these things. Always know where the wind is blowing. That's why the vile scampered off earlier. As for battle, you learn as you go..."

Suddenly, Hawk pounced forward and took Blackpaw to the ground. His claws were at her neck. She closed her eyes instinctively, but all she felt nothing. In fact, Hawk released her and began stalking away.

"Wait! Where are you going?"

"I have work to do. I don't have time to train a cat who closes their eyes in the midst of death. I'll come back when you're brave," he declared impatiently. She still lay, shocked, as he sprinted off uphill.

RogueClan would be expecting him soon. He couldn't disappoint.

"I think the forest could use a democracy," Llewyn declared as he sat upon a tall elevated mound. He overlooked the ranks and smiled. *There's no reason we can't develop a civilized society*.

"A democracy? What in the dung is that?" Lostpath snickered he laid listening quietly.

"Where all the cats participant in governing. No leader! We're a democracy if you haven't noticed."

"Having no leader is insane," Lostpath murmured with closed eyes. So far, his nap was not successful. "Who makes the tough decisions?"

"Having a leader is insane," Hawk corrected as he trotted into their makeshift camp. Gem picked up her head at his voice, than set it back down. No one was in the mood to discuss their next attack or where Hawk had been disappearing.

"Let me tell you something, I learned from twolegs. It's about how they live.."

"Oh boy."

"They... I mean.. America, has three branches of government," Llewyn explained picking up three tiny twigs from the edge of camp.

"Like tree branches?" Gem questioned in a confused state.

"No! They're three parts! The legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Each have separate and important jobs to make one government," Llewyn said drawing lines the the dirt, as he tried to educated the others. Most of them frowned, but Lynch smiled at the idea.

"So... What do they do?"

"Well. The legislative branch makes the laws through votes. It's actually really complicated in the twoleg world so we're going to say there's only two representatives from each clan that come together each moon to make congress! They make laws and once they have consensus or have voted on a law, it is passed to the executive branch."

"And that is..."

"That's where the president is in charge. The president can decide policy or veto a bill... I mean law, given to them by the legislative branch. President is also in charge of the military. *I mean,* warriors!"

"Llewyn, I think you should stop! My brain hurts," Shadow complained as he rested against a tree. Llewyn sighed. *Perhaps this is too complicated for cats*. He thought silently.

"No! I like it, keep going!" Lynch encouraged with wide eyes. Lostpath and Shadow groaned.

"And the final branch, is the judicial. They decide if the laws are constitutional. Or in our case, deemed okay by LightClan. There are 9 court members of them in the twoleg world. They serve for life. OH! And I forgot..."

"Ugh."

"Each representative, president, and court member serve terms and

are elected. They can be impeached, if horrible! And they can be reelected, if good! Isn't it great!" Llewyn exclaimed with an excited grin. Lynch nodded and Gem shrugged. Hawk found it intriguing but couldn't worry about that until he finished his current mission.

"How do you know all this?" Hawk asked curiously.

"I had a really nice elder twolegs. They left the Magic box on to the Smithsonian channel, national geographic, Fox News and Pawn stars. I watched everyday, since I was a kit!" Llewyn explained with little information. In fact, no one knew what he meant.

"Well. That's nice."

"Perhaps when we end the empire, you can restore a new government," Gem suggested with a smirk. Llewyn's yellow eyes lit up and he jumped down from the mound.

"Oh thank you! But, I'll need someone to help me plan this. It's a lot.."

"I'll do it! It sounds awesome," Lynch said adamantly. Llewyn smiled and the two trotted away to talk in private.

Lynch was ahead of Llewyn, and the Tom watch him longingly. His lean structure was filled will only muscle and bone, and his pale green eyes were lit with optimism. *He'd never*..

"Lynch, thanks for having faith in this idea. I'm really hopeful that it will help many cats," Llewyn said with a smile. Lynch nodded and glanced back at him.

"No problem! It's a great idea. So many clans have crumbled but with your help, this could last for many moons to come," Lynch pointed out as they came to a one of the mountain's creek. They both took sips of the water before sitting down. *Just say it.*

"Lynch, I wanted to tell you something. And it's not just because you've supported my idea of a democracy.."

"Sure. Anything."

"I.. I like you a lot. I haven't said so because, *you know*, it's not normal. But I was hoping that we could change that too," Llewyn began, placing himself on a limb. Lynch faced him with a slight smile.

"I left StormClan, well, because I didn't want to be placed with a she cat I didn't care about. And when I started to care about toms, I knew something was wrong with me. But now, I know that I'm just different. And that doesn't mean I can't be happy. Llewyn, I like you a lot. I have since I got here. It's only been what? Four moons? But I know that you and RogueClan, is the only place I'd ever want to be."

"Me too. Me too, Lynch."

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

As you may have noticed, the allegiances, (due to high request) will be shortened each chapter to show clans that will be in the chapter. It doesn't mean that your cat won't be mentioned in a bit of dialogue, or that you can skip the chapter.

It's just making it more convenient for everybody.

And I assure you, there will always be more actual chapter than allegiances. That's always my goal.

Chapter 9

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.
(MidnightMoon1323)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy

blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Hunters:
Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Messenger:
Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Frostycloud

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Cinderstar

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (Whisperflight) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 1 moon.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 2 moons. (Starshine28)

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 3 moons. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 3 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Hunters:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Expecting Rockfall's kits.

Apprentices:
Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190) Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

"Push Dovepool," Sweetbreeze encouraged and she rubbed the she cat's belly. She grunted in pain, biting harder on the twig given to her. The first two kits had been born. Two she cats. Now, she was struggling to deliver the last two.

"Come on..." Rockfall murmured from outside the nursery. He paced nervously. His former mate had trouble with her kitting, so he was terribly anxious for Dovepool's.

"Almost there," the medicine cat whispered. The third kit came out, followed by the fourth. The last two were large toms.

"There we are. Now, remember to lick them clean. And choose their names wisely. Rockfall, you may come in," Sweetbreeze called out. The deputy immediately slinked into nursery and smiled at the sight.

"Four! How are we going to feed four!" Rockfall exclaimed, followed by a few chuckles. Dovepool smiled feebly, before setting her head down. The kitting had taken an exhausting toll on her. Rockfall licked his kits off and examined them with loving eyes. *Winterpaw will be ecstatic*.

After his first daughter returned from training, she came to the nursery first thing. Dovepool and Rockfall had agreed to wait until she was rested before naming the litter. Winterpaw, however, had tons of name ideas that she wanted to share.

"How about Swankit! That'd be so pretty!"

"We'll see. Would you let Shadowstar know? I believe she wanted to hold a warrior ceremony soon, and it would be a convenient time for the announcement."

"Sure thing!"

Soon enough, Shadowstar had been notified. She was highly anticipated this warrior ceremony, for Leopardpaw and Zodiacpaw were a strong future to the clan.

"All cats of old enough, gather under the willow of LakeClan!" Shadowstar echoed throughout the camp. Cats hurried out of the dens and most of the clan was present, since their patrols were limited by StormClan.

"Our clan is doing better than ever, even under a rule that is not our own. Dovepool has just delivered a litter of four healthy kits. Two toms and two she cats. And, Moondust has informed me that she will be entering the nursery in a moon or so with her first litter, as will I," Shadowstar announced happily. The clan cheered but Dragonstone became confused. *Wasn't she supposed to deliver in new-leaf?* "This will provide more time for the other mates of the clan to get to know each other better. But, I do approve of Bluewisp's decisions."

Hiddencreek, who sat beside Silverfeather tolerantly, glanced back at Rainpool. Her silver fur gleamed as the sun's rays touched it. As her deep blue eyes met his, he felt his heart stop. *There has to be another way.*

"Leopardpaw and Zodiacpaw, step forward," Shadowstar instructed making sure the two were accounted for. They were, and stepped forward tingling with excitement.

"It's finally happening," Leopardpaw whispered to her best friend. Zodiacpaw smiled and looked up at her. "You're going to be the best leader the clan has ever had!"

"But you'll be the best deputy," Zodiacpaw countered with a grin. They giggled at their promises looking back toward Shadowstar.

"Leopardpaw, do you promise to uphold LakeClan law, and always cherish the values that Skystar upheld?"

"I do," she declared.

"Then, by the power of LightClan, you shall be know as

Leopardfang. May you protect LakeClan with all your strength and heart," Shadowstar said, followed by the cheers of her new name.

"Zodiacpaw, do you promise to uphold LakeClan law, and always cherish the values that Skystar upheld?"

"I do. I certainly do."

"Then, by the power of LightClan, you shall be know as Zodiacpelt. And with the accordance of LakeClan law, saying that only a she cat may lead LakeClan, I name Zodiacpelt, my successor and future leader of this clan. Her deputy will be chosen by Rockfall, as he will choose his successor," their leader declared, allowing Rockfall to take take to the willow's branch.

"I am honored to be LakeClan's deputy and I hope I will continue to serve you for many moons to come. But in case I do not, my successor shall be Ottertail," he announced. This surprised everyone, as Hiddencreek and Badgerclaw were both more experienced and qualified. But nevertheless, everyone loved the endearing Tom, and he was sure to be a wise choice for the future of the clan.

"Congrats Ottertail! You were my pick... well second to Dragonstone cause his name is wicked! But still, you'll be awesome. And congrats to you girls too!" Cougarpaw rambled off as soon as he reached them.

"Yes. Congratulations!" Winterpaw said with a smile. "You've worked really hard. You deserve this."

"Thanks, but not really. We worked harder before the empire existed," Zodiacpelt commented quietly. Leopardfang jabbed her in her side quietly and the two batted each other.

"We're really proud of you guys," Mistyshine said with a smile. Them thanked their older friend and mentor before they prepared for their vigil. It'd be exciting.

As the meeting dismissed, cats gathered around to take part in the larger bounty of fish they had caught today. It was rare they caught

enough to feed everyone, and LakeClan were ready for a celebration.

But two cats decided to sneak away from the celebration. It was perhaps, the only time, they could speak in private and not be noticed.

"Rainpool..."

"Don't say it, please."

"I love you. I want to be with you. Not Silverfeather. I will do whatever it takes, to be with you. We can run away... defy StormClan... please," Hiddencreek pleaded. Rainpool was on the verge of tears herself. She loved him so much, yet she knew she couldn't defy her new clan. She loved LakeClan more.

"I can't. What about Silverfeather? She cares for you, a lot. She's much more formidable," Rainpool argued. This made tears pour and she couldn't compose herself. *Why am I not good enough for him? I wish I was. More than anything.*

"You are the most beautiful she cat I have ever met. Not to mention the kindest and most sensitive to the needs of others. I want to call you mine."

"I would want nothing more, than to do the same," Rainpool admitted as she brushed her muzzle against his. He licked her ear and they continued sharing tongues, a tradition usually only practiced by close kin and mates.

Hiddencreek purred as she finished, by licking the side of his cheek. He moved toward licking her neck, but she moved away before he got near her scruff. She glanced in his eyes longingly before turning away.

"We can't. Not without Silverfeather's approval. I would hate to be in her position," Rainpool decided turning back to him. He looked at her sadly, but eventually nodded in agreement. It would be dishonorable to disregard a friend like Silverfeather. "We'll speak with her."

While LakeClan celebrated into the night, CaveClan did quite the opposite. Blackpaw had delivered the news that Palesky and Fierceclaw died on StormClan territory two days ago. This put the entire clan into terrible grief on top of the Darkomen and Frostycloud's death.

"No.. No.."

"Mommy," Stonekit squeaked. His mother began to slowly sob and she raced into the nursery. Nearby, Sleetpool was in a state of shock, not quite sobbing but not alright.

"Come on, Stonekit," Shiftclaw whispered, ushering him toward camp's exit. He glanced back and noticed Hailpaw and Swiftpaw, also crying. What happened?

"Stonekit, you must be kind to the cats affected today. They lost someone they loved," his father explained calmly. Stonekit tilted his head, a bit confused.

"They're lost? Why don't we go and find them," Stonekit suggested with wide eyes.

"They're gone. Gone forever. It's what cats call death. When one has gone away and will never return," Shiftclaw replied, a bit weary of his fathering. He didn't want to scare his son, but he needed to know.

"I don't like that! Why don't they come back! They can't do that!" Stonekit rambled, thinking of how the clan would be without his aunt Palesky, Darkomen and Fierceclaw.

"They can't. But, you can pray to LightClan that they find peace in the afterlife. And maybe, you'll see them again.."

Silvershell continued sobbing in the nursery, trying to compose herself. However, the pain was too much. She could see her sister's dead body, she could feel the pain she endured, even many trees away.

When she had calmed herself down, she started thinking of Dapplestone. The same vision occurred. She saw her mother's dead

body, and the kits that tried to suckle from it. "*I love you, Silverkit.*" Her mother had said many times in the past. She felt a burning growing in her chest and she huffed.

"Why did you leave? Mothers don't leave their children," Silvershell hissed to herself and she peered through her teary eyes. Now her sister was dead. Palesky was dead. *Why did you go!*

"Silvershell, are you alright?" Lillyleap asked as she walked into the nursery. Silvershell rubbed her face against her pelt and peered back at her.

"Fine. I'm fine."

"I'm really sorry about Palesky. She was a really nice cat," Lillyleap replied quietly before settling in her nest. Silvershell did the same and tried to rest. She faded into sleep quickly, while Lillylelap shifted uncomfortably.

The kits were due any day now. But she had an itchy cough that had been bugging her for many days now. She assumed it was a side effect of her pregnancy, but Blackfire wasn't so sure.

The silver furred queen had had the cough before Lillyleap and continued to. Even with resting and lots of water, her cough continued fiercely.

"Sparrowfeather, I don't think it's normal," Blackfire began, coughing in between her phrases. "I think I need herbs."

"I agree. It sounds like Whitecough or Greencough, but I can't put my paw on it. Take this tansy, now. And tomorrow, have some more. It should fade away after that," Sparrowfeather instructed with a smile. Blackfire nodded and coughed into her pelt.

"Thank you," she replied nibbling on the herb given to her. After, she headed back to her two kits. Twistedfoot watched the she cat rejoin her kits, yet she continued to cough throughout the day. Even though the symptoms of disease made him weary, he worried about his mother more.

Shymask hadn't returned. And he had no idea if his mother made it

to MountainClan safely. For all he knew, she could have died on the journey.

"Fairshade! Any scent of mom?" Twistedfoot asked, trotting toward his brother. Fairshade frowned.

"No. Why do you suddenly care about mom?" His brother snapped and immediately, Twistedfoot scoffed.

"You're dung, you know that? She's my mom..."

"You left us!"

"I left you so I could be myself! All Flintpaw ever did was bring me down! And Blitzfire and you just let it happen and you got to run and skip around and do all the normal dung kits get to do! I had to learn how to walk for a moon. Coldstar didn't think I'd make it. I'm proud to have belonged to a clan that had faith and me!" Twistedfoot sneered coldly, before stalking out of camp.

He was ready. He would run away, find Shymask, and never come back to CaveClan. But, his plans were foiled by a gentle voice.

"Twistedfoot..."

"What're you doing here? Where have you been?" Twistedfoot replied without glancing toward her. She was taken aback and didn't know what to say.

"Working. I need.."

"You need my help," he cut her off and she spat.

"No. I need you, mouse brain," Gem said, stepping into his sight. "I know that now."

"Gem!" Fairshade exclaimed from behind his brother. Her head spun to face Fairshade and Twistedfoot scowled, stalking off. Of course.

"I'm so happy you're okay," Fairshade said, grabbing her attention.

"Of course I'm okay. Why wouldn't I be?" Gem countered, peering

back towards Twistedfoot.

"Well. RogueClan does many dangerous things.."

"Excuse me, but I need to speak with Twistedfoot," Gem replied calmly, doffing Fairshade and walking toward his brother.

"Why? Is something wrong?"

"I just love him. That's all," Gem snickered, bearing a small grin. Fairshade's jaw dropped and he stood frozen, watching the two trot away.

When they were out of sight, Gem brushed her muzzle against Twistedfoot and released a purr. Twistedfoot was ready to do the same, but he was unsure of her motives.

"Why? Why this, all the sudden?" Twistedfoot questioned, stepping away from her.

"I realized how stupid I've been. This rogue... he's nuts. I just, want everything to go back to normal. I want you to be my normal," she whispered licking the fur on his neck. He resisted and glared at her adamantly

"I can't do this. I can't be your mate and let you fight StormClan at the same time. There would be no future," Twistedfoot replied strongly. He wouldn't risk having kits with her, if she participated in such dangerous predicaments.

"What if you come with me? Or we go to MountainClan.."

"Do you promise?"

"Whatever it takes, love. I want to be with you," Gem purred with loving eyes. She brushed herself against his flank and he couldn't stop himself. He licked between her ears affection steely before grabbing her scruff gently. Then, they found a safe cavern to sleep, east of the CaveClan camp.

"We'll head for MountainClan in the morning," Gem whispered as they slept beside each other. Twistedfoot smiled and closed his

eyes, completely content for once in his life. When Gem knew he was fast asleep, she stepped away from him, careful not to wake him.

"I'm sorry, Twistedfoot. I do love you," she whispered. Then, she left and sprinted into the darkness.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

As you can see, we have a lot of romance in the air. Let's hope it continues in prosper.

Chapter 10

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes.

(LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)
Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes.

(Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Nightjet

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Kestrelpaw- a pale ginger furred Tom with dark ginger spots. He has pale blue eyes. (WarriorCatFan53) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 2 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 2 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 3 moons. (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 3 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 3 moons. (helloilovecats)

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 4 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (vanessa8101)

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 4 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Rogues and Refugees-

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail.

She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. She lost her left leg to infection. (GamerGirl13x)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12) Kits: Jaykit and Ravenkit

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (Mapleii) Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalkit- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverkit- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 2 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzle on the River Water- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breeze Where the Eagle Flies- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

River Beneath Shining Moon- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Watcher that hides in trees- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falcon that cries on the Mountain- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

"And which constellation is that one?" Darkness asked, his eyes focused as he picked out star shapes with his mind. Sunlight smiled at his eagerness, and looked where Darkness was looking.

"That would be Gemini, the twins," Sunlight explained. "Right next to Diana's enemy, Scorpius."

"Scorpius? Amazing," Darkness noted, and leaned against the lighthouse's railing. Behind the cats, the huge brazer that held the flame of Alexandria burned brightly, casting its light across Alexandria's port. The lighthouse of Alexandria was one of Sunlight's human's favorite places to visit, and Sunlight knew the way in her sleep.

"It really is," Sunlight agreed. "Scorpius was Diana's toughest opponent, and a formidable monster. They say in the story that Diana refused to hunt for months after Scorpius killed her lover, Orion."

"That's a good story," Darkness stretched his paws out in front of him, and looked for a new piece of sky to point to. "What is that constellation?"

Sunlight laughed. "Those are only stars."

"Only stars?" Darkness asked, miffed. "You're looking at my ancestors! Your ancestors! Every little cat knows that when a brave cat dies, they get to live in the sky with their families, and shine as bright as the sun for their courage."

"And your ancestors were brave?" Sunlight asked. She wasn't meaning offense, she was just curious. The more she got to know Darkness, the more she could believe that he came from fighters.

Darkness nodded. "My ancestors travelled everywhere," He meowed proudly. "My kin make it a point to never die where you were born. Even I'm not really from Alexandria."

So this is what he meant when he had said that he had no home? Sunlight tried to imagine living anywhere she wanted, and traveling the world. On top of the lighthouse, with a view of the sea and the stars, she could see herself as a great explorer, with not a care in the world.

"It sounds amazing," Sunlight admitted, "Your ancestors sound like they would be brave warriors, if they were human."

"Well why can't they be?" Darkness said pointedly. "They all fought for something, whether it was the battle for prey or a battle to keep their lives, and their family's lives. Just because we aren't human, doesn't mean we can't fight for something worthwhile."

"Like the Egyptian gods," Sunlight beamed. "They took animal forms, because they were stronger, and put them closer to nature."

Darkness nodded. "See? They agree with me."

They sat in silence for a moment, taking in the sounds of the sea, and the jovial mirth of the humans celebrating a festival below. Both minds were on ancestors in the sky, and the cat sitting close beside him, or her. Sunlight was suddenly aware of how tall Darkness was when he didn't slouch from hunger, or how intense his eyes were.

Darkness coughed, abruptly. "It's a shame us cats can't be like those gods. I haven't seen a proper tree, let alone a forest, since I was born. All I've seen is stone and rats and too many twolegs."

"Well, maybe it'd be easier if there were less twolegs, or the cats lived in the wild," Sunlight mused, her mind racing between old stories and Darkness. Sunlight had never felt such a longing for adventure, never in all her moons as a pet.

Darkness suddenly got to his paws, and paced into the inner area of the lighthouse, where the brazer burned, sending huge flames into the sky. He ran right up to the brazer, and started pawing at the ground. He was drawing a square.

"Look at this!" He mewed excitedly, drawing a shape with his claw in the ashes that surrounded the brazer's pit. "I have an idea."

He drew inside the square what looked like a square cat head in the ash, and put a crown above it's head. "This is the leader," - he drew a vertical line under the cat, and traced another cat head, who wore half a crown - "And that cat, the one with the half-crown, is the... um...general. The general helps the leader make decisions, and will one day become leader. These two guys are the cats that make decisions."

Darkness drew another square directly under the first, and started drawing many cat heads, the biggest on top and the smallest on the bottom. He scratched lightening bolt symbols on their foreheads.

"These cats are the soldiers," He continued, and pointed to the top row of cats. "These are senior soldiers, and the general and leader listen to them for advice. The soldiers protect all the other cats, and fight battles for their group." Darkness's eyes shone with ambition, his face was excited as he looked up at Sunlight. "This could solve

the problems rogues have faced for lifetimes!"

Sunlight tipped her head to the side, and studied Darkness's diagram.

"Hold on,"she drew a square next to the leader/general square. Inside that square, she drew a couple more cats, who also had crowns. She sat back on her haunches, satisfied.

"These are the queens," Sunlight told Darkness, who also looked at the box. "They're the leader's and general's mates, and are in charge of raising and taking care of the kits in the group. They should also make some decisions for the group."

Darkness nodded in agreement. "Excellent! But they shouldn't fight if they were warriors who became queens. That's a bad idea. Do we put the kits with them?"

"Yes! The kits are very important. No kits, no future," Sunlight stifled a yawn. "There should be rules for protecting the weak and helpless who cannot defend themselves. Like a law, or a code. That's what my twoleg's kin, the Pharaoh, has. He is in charge of other twolegs, and makes rules for them." Sunlight paused. "But they don't like him very much."

"It's because his rules aren't fair. Cat's rules would be different, and equal for everybody."

"First Rule: Cats must have loyalty to the group," Sunlight announced, and laughed. "Second Rule: Show respect to their leader."

"Third Rule: Show respect to the other members of the clan!" Darkness rambled off, hyper and excited about what they were doing. As they listed rules, their noses got closer and closer, until finally Sunlight had to pull away.

"What are you doing?" Sunlight asked, surprised.

"What are you talking about?" Darkness blushed, and looked back down at their diagram. "I'm going to try to remember this. We've really thought of something, but I should go," He started towards

the stairs of the lighthouse. "Do you want me to walk with you back to the palace?" He asked, trying to ignore how the fire in the brazer made her fur glow, and her eyes shine. *Isis, she's beautiful.*

Sunlight nodded. "Yes, please."

They started down the rail-less stairs, and tried not to look down. It would be a hundred foot drop, straight into the rocky seafloor below. Sunlight shivered, and Darkness, who was on the edge, pressed against her side gently, expression innocent.

When they reached the palace, Sunlight stopped before climbing over the balcony. She looked down at Darkness, who watched from below.

"Darkness," She mewed softly. "I'll miss you."

He looked surprised, but pleased. Darkness gave her an awkward smile.

"I'll miss you too. Goodnight, Sunlight." He disappeared into the dark night.

This time, it wasn't a dream for Blackpaw. It was a vision that seemed it occurred immediately as she locked eyes with Hawk. As soon as the vision was over, they both fell back in reaction to the strange force.

"What was that? Did you have it to?" Blackpaw asked, needing the answers. Who was Sunlight? Where were they? Why am I having this dreams without end?

"Visions. Is the area safe?" Hawk questioned glancing around wearily. Blackpaw shook her head, knowing that a hunting patrol could come by soon. She hadn't expected him so didn't prepare. "Then come with me."

She followed him until they trotted deep into CaveClan territory, and east. When it seemed safe, Hawk turned to face her.

"Sunlight and Darkness were some of the fist cats. They recommended to cats everywhere to form communities, to fight

together instead of alone.. I don't know anymore, except that they live in the stars now. LightClan, ruled by Sunlight, governs over StarClan, and the Tribe of Endless hunting," Hawk explained pointing up to the sky. The stars weren't visible in the day, but Blackpaw understood that they were there.

"I thought LightClan... is StarClan? At least that's what my mother told Rockfall, when he joined LakeClan," Blackpaw said glancing at Hawk. "And what's the Tribe of endless hunting?"

"No. Perhaps it seemed that way... But cats who follow the Warrior code, believe in StarClan. Tribe cats, ancient and few, believe in the Tribe of endless hunting. LightClan governs them both. My mother, told me all of this when I was kit. Rogues never believed in the stars, but my mother believed we should. Because, what're we without it?"

"Good point. But I still don't understand what this has to do with us," she murmured in reply.

"The cats in the stars see and know all. They give us dreams and prophecies to allow us to interpret and prepare for the future. You and I, have a destiny, just as every creature who walks the earth..."

"And ours?" Blackpaw interrupted.

"Isn't it ironic how the granddaughter of the most tyrannical tom that ever lived, met a rogue willing to make a change? Working together, we could free the clans forever and place a democracy. That will last forever," Hawk declared with a passionate gleam in his eyes. Blackpaw did agree that her grandfather was tyrannical, but would never dream of hurting him or anyone. Her mother taught her better.

"Nothing lasts forever," she challenged.

"How do you know? Cats have? Twolegs have? Will we too perish?"

"No. I mean institutions and leaders. Why not wait until he dies?"

"Waiting has caused the deaths of too many cats. He murdered Maliceflame, he took my parents from me. He's going to pay.."

"Not by your claw. Please, I don't want to talk about this. I'm not, like you. I can't talk about killing cats," Blackpaw shifted uneasily on her paws.

"Alright. Tell me about StormClan. How has your moon there been?"

"Actually... This is going to sound horrible but ever since Cherrypaw died, it's gotten better. Out of all the cats, she was definitely the worst. Besides Thunderstar of course.."

"And the best?"

"Rosejay and her family has been pretty comforting. She's a very kind cat," she replied honestly.

"Any toms, you're interested in?"

"Gosh, Hawk! I'm not even ten moons yet," Blackpaw snapped becoming very flustered.

"There is someone," Hawk prompted with a small grin. She grinned and glanced at her paws.

"Okay... He's another apprentice, Steelpaw. A moon or two older than me. He's training to be a warrior..."

"You'll be mates. I can already see it! Blacksteel? That sounds okay," Hawk pestered. She jabbed in the flank and his eyes turned fiery.

"Sorry!"

"No. You wanna fight. We'll fight!"

As Blackpaw and Hawk continued their training for the day, other cats struggled to do the same. In MountainClan, Swiftfawn had never ceased at keeping her clan going.

"You can't attack without purpose, Rustpaw," Swiftfawn scolded as she viewed the young. Bonepaw as taken Rustpaw to the dirt floor with ease. Rustpaw knew Bonepaw was bigger, older, better and would crush him, so he didn't try.

"Fawn that runs swiftly," Watcher that hides in the trees grinned. "I mean.. Swiftfawn."

"Excellent, Robinpaw. Your speed is brilliant," she said before turning to him. "What is it?"

"We would like to have a clan meeting," he explained calmly. Swiftfawn nodded and glanced back at the apprentices.

"Do they have to attend?"

"It is a traditional custom," Watcher that hides in the trees insisted. Swiftfawn smirked then beckoned the apprentices.

"Very well. You are finished for today. But I want you to sprint back. Last one, has cleaning duty tomorrow!"

Robinpaw was the first out, followed by the other six. Their paws pounded up the hill steadily, trying to out race the others. No one wanted den duty.

Robinpaw kept ahead of the pack, but Rustpaw was falling from his speed. The same occurred with Tearpaw, Eaglepaw and Bonepaw, who struggled to keep up. Echopaw and Robinpaw were the first to reach refugee camp, near the top of the mountain. They collapsed in exhaustion as soon as they arrived. Running uphill was far too tiring.

Eaglepaw was the next to arrive and he plummeted into the ground. Tearpaw and Rustpaw were dragging their paws, neck and neck until she sent him a smirk. She pulled the remaining energy she had and shot forward, leaving Rustpaw in the dust.

"Rustpaw, you know what that means," Swiftfawn announced as he trailed into camp. He groaned and flopped to the ground.

"Why? I always have den duty.."

"All cats get your butt into camp! Tribe cats wanna talk!" Bushwind shouted with a power in his words. He giggled after he said it. He sounded so powerful.

"Yes. As eldest tribe cat, I shall hold the ceremony," Watcher the hides in the trees said, stepping forward. "As many of you know, it has been many moons since we have lived together. We have enjoyed this clan's company from the first days you were here. So, we wish to make it official!"

"What?"

"We want to become one with the clan," Breeze where the eagle flies replied. The MountainClan cats exchanged astonished glanced, while the tribe cat smiled.

"Let me name them, Swiftfawn! I've always wanted to name a cat!" Flamespirit exclaimed with a bounce in her step. Swiftfawn nodded, having to objection the younger she cat stepped forward.

"Alrighty! Do you all promise to uphold the MountainClan law for as long as you shall live?"

"Yes.."

"I do."

"What's the law?"

"Moving on," Flamespirit interrupted glancing at the first tribe cat she noticed. "River that shines beneath the moon, from this day you shall be known as *Shimmerpool*!"

"That's creative," Swiftfawn murmured to herself."

"Watcher that hides in the trees will now be known as Hiddenwatcher!"

"These clan cats like to talk fast," Hiddenwatcher mumbled to Drizzle on the River Water. He nodded in agreement.

"Falcon that cried on the Mountain, you will be known as Falconcry!" Flamespirit declared, particularly proud of that specific name. Cloudfire purred at the sound of his new name.

"Drizzle on the River Water, you will be known as Drizzlecloud.

And Breeze where the Eagle flies will be known as Breezeflight..."

"Before you finish this fine ceremony. We have to share one of our own," Hiddenwatcher announced, glancing toward Falconcry. The young Tom and Cloudfire stepped forward. "In the tribes, we used to have a ceremony for mates. It is become known to me that the clans do not have one. So, we should be honored to share ours on this day. Falconcry and Cloudfire, have grown close in the moons that they have spent together, and now wish to celebrate this in the ceremony of mates."

"Wait," Swiftfawn whispered stepping toward the tom. "This will be appropriate for the children, right?"

"Of course! Now. Entwine your tails," Hiddenwatcher instructed as the two followed. They looked at each other lovingly when he began the vows.

"Do you promise to pledge yourself to your mate for as long as you shall live?"

"I do," they said in unison.

"Do you promise to share your love, and be an example to the rest of your tribe and clan?"

"I do," Cloudfire said, followed by Falconcry who stumbled his words then became flustered.

"Do you promise to have lots and lots of kits?"

"I do!" Falconcry smirked. Cloudfire glanced back at her kits flustered. She sighed and glanced back with a gin.

"I do."

"From this day forward, Falconcry and Cloudfire will be mates," Hiddenwatcher declared. Cardinalkit and Cloverkit were the first to cheer, seeing they would have siblings in new-leaf. The former tribe cats cheered, followed by the MountainClan cats.

After the ceremony, MountainClan and their new members enjoyed

a filling meal with the bounty the Warriors had caught. The feast was almost too good to be true, but they had happened to find many tiny animals preparing for the leaf-bare ahead.

"I had no clue. It's so romantic, mom," Blitzfire sighed as she glanced upon the new mates. Shymask turned to her with a grin.

"What about your romance?"

"Ever since.."

"I know dear. But he's been trying. I can see it. Besides, it's not anyone's fault that the kits weren't developed. It was a terrible accident that should not destroy your hopes of being a mother," Shymask comforted, glancing over to Bushwind. Her daughter's mate was a silly tom, but she saw a brightness in him like no other cat. He was good. "Go speak to him."

"I need to spend time with you, before you head off again.."

"Nonsense. I'll be fine. I'll stay a few more days before I head back for CaveClan. Now, go."

Blitzfire breathed, and followed her mother's suggestion. She had fallen into terrible sadness, at the thought of never being a mother. She missed Bushwind more, and knew she needed him.

"Bushwind..."

"Blitzfire, I'm so sorry. Itwasthepurplerootandimessedupandthekisdied.. BUT! I love you. And I'm willing to do the weird thing, until we can have kits, because you'd make the best mother in the world and I really want to be a dad! And I think our kittens would be adorable," he replied quickly, as he repeated his planned confession and effort to make things better.

"Oh Bushwind," she swooned.

"Does that mean we'll keep trying?"

"Of course we will. I never lost hope in you. Not for a minute."

Thanks you for reading, voting and commenting! No deaths! Awesome!

Who knew that tribe cats had the institution of marriage down?

Chapter 11

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
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Mentor: Moonbliss

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Mentor: Earthfoot

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Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 3 moons. (helloilovecats)

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 4 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (vanessa8101)

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 4 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Hunters:
Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Messenger:
Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Frostycloud

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Cinderstar

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Blackfire- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. (SeasonSnow) Kits: Darkkit and Hazelkit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (Whisperflight) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 2 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 3 moons. (Starshine28)

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

"When will Shymask be back?" Wildkit asked quietly, nudging his brother. Twistedfoot sighed. His mother had been gone for several days, and now, his litter mates and him were worried.

"I don't know," Twistedfoot replied, groggily.

"You've been laying around like a dumb-butt for a three days!" Commitkit shrieked, jabbing her brother softly. He grinned and sat up, inspecting them.

Phantomkit and Commitkit shared tortoiseshell patches, except Phantomkit's were darker shades while Commitkit had a mixture of ginger, black and white patches.

Aurakit, however resembled her older brother, Fairshade. She had cream fur, and a brown underbelly, ears, and speckles on her back. And Wildkit, was just Wildkit.

"Where'd you learn that word?"

"Oh, dumb-butt? Hollowpaw. She knows a lot," Commitkit said. Twistedfoot nodded set his head against the cave wall.

His half siblings were right. He had been nothing but a dumb-butt recently. Twistedfoot had let the love of his life run away, once more. And it was his fault. *How could you have let her do that? Have you no sense?*

"Twistedfoot, can we go find mommy. I'm getting really scared without her," Aurakit whispered, trotting toward him. At this, his eyes widened and he got in their noses curiously.

"What do you mean?"

"Blackfire has an awful cough and it won't stop. Now Lillyleap and Darkkit have it.."

"What? That's not good," Twistedfoot said, taking off for the nursery.

"I know! That's why we need mommy!" Aurakit called after him. The three stayed together near the edge of camp, and continued to play. Twistedfoot didn't even reach the nursery when he heard Cinderstar's pleading voice.

"You need catmint. This is serious," her mate demanded. Blackfire

shook her head and smiled.

"That's nonsense. Don't waste it on me when someone else could have Greencough. Sparrowfeather said it's not Whitecough nor Greencough.."

"Sparrowfeather didn't loose her littermates to it," Cinderstar snapped, ushering his mate out of the nursery. Blackfire was about to say something else, when she froze as fell onto the stone floor.

"Blackfire! Blackfire!"

"I'll get water," Blazepaw announced taking off toward the cave's nearest puddle, with moss in her jaws.

"Blackfire.."

"Cinderstar," she replied feebly raising her head slowly. Then, her head dropped and she let out a fierce cough. From the cough, came blood and mucous. Blackfire moaned in pain, after that.

"Mommy!"

"Get back!" Cinderstar screamed, close to tears, as he stared over Blackfire.

"Where's Sparrowfeather!"

While this chaos occurred, Twistedfoot took charge and swiftly moved toward the medicine stores. Everyone was looking in her den, but she spent most time in the stores. When he arrived there, he spotted Sparrowfeather laying down, her eyes were clouded over with a white film.

"Sparrowfeather.. Sparrowfeather," he repeated nudging her in the side. The medicine cat gasped and rose from the ground, and the white film disappeared.

"Horsetail," she coughed into the ground. "Horsetail... He told me everything. It's Blackcough!"

She coughed in between her breaks, and Twistedfoot stepped back.

He had never heard of any of the diseases. The clans were new, and they had never faced this until now.

"It's the worst. It's highly infectious. It affects almost all of the clan. And it affects cats with the same blood as previous victims even more. They're more susceptible. So family members or distant kin will become infected. Some cats are immune. But there's no cure. Catmint can help, but it won't cure everyone," she said, tears filling her eyes. "Once the cats have it, they won't make it."

Twistedfoot realized that the poor she cat knew that she would never make it. Even if she could be cured, the clan came first.

"You need to tell Cinderstar," Twistedfoot stated.

"He's losing Blackfire as we speak."

"We're losing everyone. You said it yourself. There's no stopping this, so the only rational plan is to get everyone, healthy, out."

"I'm sick. In staying here," she whimpered, trying to compose herself. Twistedfoot wouldn't fight with her and he took off, determined for action.

As Twistedfoot reached the central cavern of camp, he spotted Fairshade off to the side. He limped to his brother with urgency, and the tom lifted his eyes to face him.

"Fairshade! We need to act. It's Blackcough..." As Twistedfoot spoke the words, he noticed Fairshade's blood shot eyes and subtle cough.

"What?"

"Nothing," Twistedfoot said quickly, trotting away. There was no hope for Fairshade. If he was infected, Twistedfoot could become infected, and so could the rest of their family.

"Wildkit! Aurakit! Commitkit! Come on. We're leaving now!" Their brother ordered quietly. They stood up, alarmed and glanced at each other.

"What about Phantomkit?"

"I'll get him. Get a head start. When you exit the cave, turn left and keep running straight. Trust me."

The kits did as told and left the camp. Twistedfoot hurried to find Phantomkit, and found the kit by the prey pile.

"I'm going to be an apprentice very soon!" He declared proudly. The toms he was talking to, weren't so impressed.

"You may not be big enough," Hailpaw chuckled quietly. Swiftpaw and Flarepaw talked quietly to the side enforce recognizing Twistedfoot's presence.

"Is something wrong?"

"Yes. Phantomkit, come with me. Swiftpaw, tell your mother to get the healthy cats out, now. I'm not bluffing. Do it if you care for your life," Twistedfoot demanded, rushing Phantomkit to the exit. They watched them silently leave.

"Blackfire! Stay with us," Blazepaw begged trying to drip the watery moss over her steamy head. Cinderstar couldn't take it anymore an was pacing to the side, anxiously.

"Cinderstar... I need to tell you..."

"What is it?" He asked immediately, at the words of her stability.

"Find," she coughed feebly. More blood was the result.

"Hazelkit's... Hazelkit's mother," she whispered before she laid her head done, and groaned. Her pupils became abnormally large, and she became frightened. She shrieked in fear before she went unconscious once more. And this time it was for good.

"Sparrowfeather," Blazepaw began as she trotted over to her mentor. "I tried, but I.. I didn't know.."

"She's the first of many. I'll need to make a trip to the twolegplace. The only herb that can help, is catmint."

Meanwhile, StormClan had no problem with Blackcough, and they

would cease to. Thunderstar had instructed his messengers to focus on relations with LakeClan, and searching for the MountainClan and RogueClan survivors.

The second province would fall to their knees, and recognize their need for the empire. Spare warriors had been collecting catmint for a moon now, and CaveClan would have no refuge from the disease.

"The strong will survive. The weak will die," Thunderstar declared, with a suspense that ran threw his paws. Sprucestrike stared at the best of his head with worry. *I wish he'd let it go*.. "First evaluations are tonight. The apprentices shall fight for the clan tonight."

"Wait!" Sprucestrike called after him. Thunderstar appeared to be heading for the exit of camp. "Where are you going?"

"I'm visiting my mate. I'll be back shortly.."

"Could you wait until after the evaluations? This means a lot to the apprentices and I'm sure it won't take long," Sprucestrike suggested. It was unbecoming of their leader to always visit the grave, at the most inconvenient times.

"Very well. I'll wait. But you should consider how you would fair, without your one true love beside you until your deathly moons."

"Thunderstar. I mean no disrespect," he protested calmly, but his leader quickly silenced him.

"Yet, you continually show it. No one cared for Dapplestone as they should've. She was the best she cat, SkyClan blood could provide. And now, she's dead by *your* fault. *Not mine*."

"What!"

"You were the one who put senseless effort into killing that.. *Shymask*. You were the one of authority there! You should've put aside your killing for one minute to save our own!"

"Enough! I won't take this! I'm not your son!"

A clear silence followed Sprucestrike's words, and Thunderstar

lashed his tail. Their beady eyes met each other and Thunderstar sighed.

"You're right. You are not. And that's why you have no value to this clan. *Get out.*"

"What?" Sprucestrike muttered in shock.

"Get out. You're not SkyClan blood. Why should you even be here? Why should any of them," Thunderstar glanced around to the others in camp. "Just get out."

"No," Sprucestrike replied simply. Thunderstar eyed him fiercely.

"Fine," he snapped, too disgusted with his clan to even care. Sprucestrike was pleasantly surprised at his actions, but knew that Thunderstar's attitude could not continue. "You lead the evaluations. They're not worth seeing anyway. *Worthless kits*.."

Witnessing this, were a group of apprentices themselves, quietly chewing their prey. Steelpaw and Tangledpaw discussed the results of battle training today, while Deathpaw listened silently. Sharppaw was also among them, and was enjoying his mouse throughly, until the argument caught his attention.

"Tangledpaw," Sharppaw whispered, facing his brother quietly. He usually could never relate to their conversations, being a hunter. Sharppaw however was as polite as he could be, considering he wasn't engaged in the conversation at the time.

"What is it?"

"Have they ever fought that way before?" Sharppaw asked in a hushed tone. Tangledpaw had briefly watched but wasn't really concerned with leadership business.

"Sure. They bicker like always. Thunderstar has to fight with someone..."

"But, why Sprucestrike? He's the best warrior in the clan," Sharppaw replied. Deathpaw scoffed nearby.

"Then why is Thornfrost going to be the next leader?"

"Because she's Thunderstar's daughter," Tangledpaw snorted. "It's stupid. He used to like us, then dad left and now we're practically mouse dung to him. We'll probably be warriors last."

"He never cared about us. Aspenfur has been more of a father to us than Vulturestar or Thunderstar ever could," Deathpaw declared, boldly.

"Mom was great," Tangledpaw said.

"Hey! Blackpaw!" Sharppaw called out, as he noticed the black furred she cat trot into camp. His sister's eyes met his and her smile became wide.

"Speaking of stupid," Deathpaw murmured sourly.

"Come on. She's not bad," Sharppaw protested adamantly.

"She had all the time in the world with mom, yet she acts like something was taken from her," Deathpaw replied in a whisper, as the she cat came closer.

"Well. I think she's nice," Steelpaw said quickly, before they all turned back to their meals as her, and Snakepaw approached.

"I heard warrior evaluations are tonight," Blackpaw said, checking with Sharppaw. He nodded and glanced at the three he was sitting with.

"Yep. They'll do great if they can beat Vicepaw, Crimsonpaw and Kestrelpaw," Sharppaw replied. Steelpaw glanced up with a challenging grin.

"Do you think we'll lose?"

"Well.."

"Kestrelpaw won't be a problem," Tangledpaw retorted quickly. Deathpaw nodded, and glanced over to the other apprentices. There, lay Bluepaw, Crimsonpaw, and Vicepaw. Vicepaw, the oldest

was already stretching out. His dark black pelt made him quite the intimidating opponent, along with his sour attitude.

"Why?" Blackpaw questioned quietly. The young Tom was new, young, and thin from his past moons as a rogue.

"He has no warrior skills. No instinct, no muscle. He shouldn't even be a warrior.."

"I think Thunderstar got lazy that day," Sharppaw admitted, observing Kestrelpaw grimly.

"He can't be that bad," She insisted, trying to defend him.

"Nope!"

"Sorry. Nothing we can do about it."

"Blackpaw, just leave it to us," Steelpaw said with a smirk. The toms laughed but Blackpaw found it in no way funny. Kestrelpaw could die in the battlefield, and would his peers or Thunderstar even care?

After that, Blackpaw turned to Snakepaw and they walked over to the medicine cat den quietly. Blackpaw often spent her free time collecting far away herbs for the medicine cats, or just talking to them. They seemed to be the most sensible of the clan, but Jaybird practically held no power.

"Are you worried about Sprucestrike?"

"I don't know. I don't get into gossip. But, he's definitely changed," Snakepaw replied, somewhat concerned with other tasks.

"What do you mean?" Blackpaw questioned curiously.

"Before his mate, Ivysong. Sprucestrike was a real piece of dung. Now, it seems he actually cares about the clan," Snakepaw said before Jaybird called him and he left. Blackpaw sighed and glanced at the deputy.

He was taking to the jagged rock, but he don't look happy.

"We will now hold our apprentice's first evaluations. Will the warrior's apprentices step forward."

At this, the warriors came from the dens an into the center of camp. They sat beside their apprentices who sat up straight, and eager to begin.

"As you know, we have separated you into teams to train for this. Crimsonpaw, Vicepaw and Cherrypaw are a team. But since Cherrypaw's untimely death, Kestrelpaw had taken her place. The second team is Steelpaw, Tangledpaw and Deathpaw," Sprucestrike said observing the two teams.

"Although they are in teams, they will fight one on one. The first match, is Steelpaw and Vicepaw. Keep your claws unsheathed!" Steelpaw and Vicepaw began at opposite sides of the camp for this, until they received the word to continue. It was given.

Steelpaw advanced slowly while Vicepaw sprinted forward quickly, sparing no energy.

"Ready to join your daddy?" Vicepaw spat quietly, as he made his first strike. His claws missed Steelpaw's ear by a grass length.

"What!" Steelpaw hissed as he rolled under Vicepaw, clawing at his belly. Vicepaw was tall however, and he only cut his fur.

"Foxheart left and died out there. Airflight found his body today," Vicepaw whispered with an attitude eager for trouble.

"You liar," Steelpaw sneered as he pounced forward and dug his claws into Vicepaw's back. The tom hissed and fell back, trying to crush Steelpaw, but he was stubborn. Vicepaw flicked him on the nose with his tail before biting his ear savagely.

"Enough!"

"I hate you," Steelpaw spat as he joined his brother, Moonpaw on the sidelines.

"What happened out there?" His sister, Bluepaw, asked as she trotted up. She was training as a hunter but had a great love for

watching battle.

"He mentioned dad."

"Steelpaw," Bluepaw sighed. "He'll come back. He would never leave us."

"What if he did?"

"He didn't. He must have gone to do something important. Something he couldn't tell us about," Moonpaw replied with a sure tone. They all loved their parents very much, and admired their father's loyalty.

"Vicepaw does that to everyone. So next time, don't listen," Bluepaw advised strictly before they turned to face the next pair. It was Crimsonpaw against Tangledpaw, one they had been apprehending for moons. They were the best warriors in training a clan could hope for. Earthfoot and Thunderstar were two of the best warriors, and very focused mentors.

Crimsonpaw stalked forward with a bored expression. This is so tedious. She thought to herself. She hated her younger kin, consisting of Tangledpaw an his siblings. They were annoyingly eager.

Tangledpaw made the first move, and attempted to dismount Crimsonpaw. This failed however, as she jumped then ducked, as he slashed forward. She slunk under his gaze and managed to scratch his flank, nothing fatal. He hissed and turned to her, who batted him across the face harshly. He fell to the ground at the force and she placed her paw on his cheek.

"Done," Sprucestrike decided. Crimsonpaw smiled and stalked back to her team. If they won all three fights, they had higher chances of getting their warrior names earlier. *Kestrelpaw better not blow it.*.

But, he did. Deathpaw pinned him down, with ease, in a matter of seconds. Making things worse for Crimsonpaw, was Thunderstar walking in on their team's loss.

"Clan dismissed. Crimsonpaw, come see me."

The white furred she cat growled to herself as she stalked to his den. How embarrassing...

"We wouldn't have lost if Cherrypaw was here!"

"Cherrypaw died to a skinny CaveClan she cat.. She wouldn't have won against Deathpaw."

"This training is ridiculous. I need something harder. Real kills."

"Since you feel so entitled to this, kill Kestrelpaw tonight. Do your best to convince the clan it was a suicide. If you succeed, I'll give you more challenging tasks," Thunderstar decided with a narrowed gaze. Crimsonpaw nodded, and he dismissed her quietly.

Crimsonpaw went immediately to her best and began to sleep lightly, while the other apprentices recounted the day's plights.

When they were all fast asleep, she tapped Kestrelpaw on the flank. The young tom rose his head and faced her.

She silently motioned for him to follow her, and to her luck, he complied.

"What is it?" He asked as they were out of camp. She faced him with no expression, as she usually had.

"Thunderstar wants us to meet him at the cliff. To practice."

He nodded and they continued a few paces until they reached the infamous cliff. While climbing to the top, Kestrelpaw became skittish and began to realize the plot.

"He's not here.."

"Yeah. He's not," she replied before batting him across the cheek. She was strong, and the blow took Kestrelpaw out, completely. She sighed, and began her task. She pushed his limp body over the cliff, and that was that. The *Crack,* was her melody.

R.I.P. BLACKFIRE

A simple she cat, and a loved mother was lost to us by Blackcough. May Cinderstar, Blazepaw, Flarepaw, Nightpaw, Darkkit and Hazelkit reach peace after your death.

SeasonSnow thank you for Blackfire and the time you've spent with us. She will be remembered.

R.I.P. KESTRELPAW

Poor, young Kestrelpaw was given an unfortunate destiny from the beginning. His abusive mentor was a warrior, and Thunderstar was too inconsiderate to notice that the tom was no fighter.

@Warriorcatfan53 , May Kestrelpaw have better days in LightClan. We will remember him fondly.

Chapter 12

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Province of CaveClan-
The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. (cocowolf12)
Apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.
(MidnightMoon1323)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy

blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Hunters:
Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes. (JinxTheRogue)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Messenger:
Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. (Wolfsprite7263) Mentor: Spottedpelt

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. (Pikochu) Mentor: Frostycloud

Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Cinderstar

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes. (Whisperflight) Expecting Sootfall's kits.

Kits:
Darkkit- a dark gray she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 2 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 3 moons. (Starshine28)

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze) Expecting Maplewood's kits.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Expecting Badgerclaw's kits.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Hunters:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Expecting Ottertail's kits. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Zodiacpelt- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp)

Leopardfang- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Apprentices:
Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght)

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Blazepaw!" Darkkit squeaked as she fell into another series of violent coughs.

"I'm coming! What hurts now?"

"My throat. My head. Blazepaw, I want mommy," she panted. Darkkit was crying, yet it was very difficult as the coughs followed her with every movement. The two moon year old kit's fur was ragged and dirty with fever. Her eyes were blood shot and worried.

"Shhh.. It'll be okay.."

"I can't... breathe," Darkkit squeaked once more as she flailed in her nest. Darkkit's frail body went into convulsions, trying to reach air, by it was no use. Mucous and blood clogged her lungs, and prevented her from catching her last breath. The dark gray kit, as her mother did, closed her eyes and died.

No... I'm sorry, Sparrowfeather. I've failed you and my family again. Blazepaw silently said, glancing up to where Blackfire, Sparrowfeather, and Darkkit now rested.

"Blazepaw," Fairshade grunted as he stood feebly.

"Please don't get up!"

"Then tell Cinderstar what's going on. He needs to know," Fairshade said, with a subtle cough to the end. For some reason, the more

athletic cats were fairing better. Most of them, had not contracted the disease. But at the same time, none of them were kin to the sickly cats.

"Okay. Keep an eye on everyone," she requested before taking off toward the leader's den. She entered and noticed him immediately.

Cinderstar laid in his den, silent and still. Everything felt so cold. He had been isolating himself since he began coughing, and so did the other victims.

"Cinderstar."

"Yes, Blazepaw," he replied, still facing the stone wall.

"We lost two more cats today."

"Who?"

"Darkkit and Sparrowfeather. I'm sorry, but she and the patrol came back empty handed. There's no catmint," Blazepaw replied quietly. Cinderstar nodded and his head dropped, in sadness. His mate, his daughter and now his medicine cat, all dead.

"Does Spottedpelt know?" Cinderstar asked, composing his grief. He had known about Sparrowfeather's secret mate for moons now. But, since they had provided no kits, it was never an issue.

"No. He hasn't returned yet," she said.

"This will be hard. You should be leaving, the healthy are evacuating.."

"I'm not healthy. Mom died, Nightpaw and Flarepaw are both sick. I won't make it," she admitted sadly. She had not contracted a cough yet, but being a medicine cat, it was going to come gradually. *I'm not an exception. I won't be.*

"I'm sorry. I should've pressed more questions and perhaps.. Blackfire would still be here."

"No. It wouldn't have helped."

"I have nine lives, Blazepaw. Do you think it will take all of them?"

"I don't know. I hope not," she replied quietly before a commotion erupted. Sootfall was scrambling to find the medicine cat apprentice, or any help.

"Help!"

"What is it?" Blazepaw answered his call immediately as he left the leader's den. Sootfall froze and caught his breath before he continued.

"It's Lillyleap. She's kitting... now! And I can't find Sparrowfeather anywhere.."

Blazepaw nodded, trying to be comforting. *He must've been on the patrols taking the healthy cats out. He doesn't know about Sparrowfeather...*

"She's not well. I think I can do it," Blazepaw replied, rushing to the nursery. She wasn't aware of the necessary herbs, so she would pray that Lillyleap was in good kitting condition. But the fact that she was in the final stages of Blackcough, could dramatically change factors.

"Oh LightClan.."

"Is there anyone else?" Blazepaw asked, urgently. She had to heal and save, or what good was she to her clan.

"Silvershell? No. She left with Stonekit. If Sleetpool... No. I'm sorry Blazepaw. I can try to be there, if it'll help.." She sighed and entered the nursery. Only Lillyleap was left, since the other she cats departed. Sootfall was behind her anxiously, but it didn't help her anxiety.

Blazepaw examined Lillyleap briefly. The gray she cat had her eyes shut in pain. The medicine cat apprentice placed her paw over Lillyleap's stomach and felt the contraction of her muscles instantly. Her belly was fiercely swollen, and the kits pounded inside her. Lillyleap let out a painful scream, before Blazepaw put a twig in her mouth.

"Push, and don't stop," Blazepaw ordered. The she cat closed her eyes once more, and got to work. It took a long time before the first kit came. A tiny she cat with a gray pelt, was cleaned by her father. After that, another she cat came quickly. She was very similar to her sister, and Sootfall almost began warming the kit. And finally a large tom, with blood in his fur, was born.

"Leafkit... that'll be the first. Then, Amberkit.. And.."

A tom appeared to be in pain, and Blazepaw licked and searched for a wound immediately.

"What's wrong with him!" Sootfall asked immediately, licking him fiercely.

"I don't know.."

"You should!" He yelled, before Lillyleap stopped moving. The twig dropped from her mouth and her chest stopped. "No, no, no! Lillyleap!"

"I'm.. I..."

"Get out!" Blazepaw left quickly, ignoring the mewling cries of the kits. *I killed her... I'm not a medicine cat.. I'm nothing*. With no mother, and no other queen, the kits would die.

Blazepaw was about to collapse in distress when a cat barreled into camp. Blazepaw rose her eyes to see Silvershell dart into the nursery. The medicine cat apprentice followed the queen.

In the time that Lillyleap died and Silvershell arrived, the first gray she cat had died.

"Silvershell, you shouldn't have come back... the disease..."

"I know. But, they needed me."

"It doesn't matter now. Lillyleap is dead. These kits should be dead with her," Sootfall muttered in pain before he stalked out of the nursery. Blazepaw couldn't hold back her tears. Silvershell quietly consoled her, but it wasn't much help.

Later in the night, LakeClan faired much differently than their fellow province.

"You're so beautiful," Lightningstrike whispered as he lay beside the love of his life. Dawnpaw slightly shifted beside him as she gazed into his eyes.

"Not as handsome as you."

"I love you."

"I love you more."

"I love you to the moon and back," Lightningstrike smirked, glancing up to the cream orb in the sky. They lay amongst the reeds that alined the lake, more west, near StormClan. It was a frosty night, but they had each other.

"I love you to the stars and back," she replied with a lick to his muzzle. She sighed, perfectly content with him by her side. "Do you think we'll be mates?"

"Aren't we already?" He asked with confusion. They'd been friends since they came to LakeClan together, but they had been mates for a moon.

"I mean official mates. In the empire."

"Why does that matter? Does anyone really follow that anyway?"

"Yes! It's really important. If we aren't together, we could be with someone else and forced to mate. Who wants that?"

"How would they force you to mate? That seems so odd."

"Lightningstrike! This is serious," she murmured, nuzzling her muzzle into the crook of his neck.

"I know, love. But it's simple. Once you're made a warrior, we'll have kits and they can't break up a family. If anything else happens, we'll run away," he explained calmly. Dawnpaw frowned.

"Where would we run?"

"To somewhere safe. MountainClan, perhaps?"

"They don't exist. StormClan killed them all!" Dawnpaw stated with little indifference.

"That's what StormClan wants us to think. Do you really think that they killed everyone? I don't."

"Why lie?"

"To display dominance.To make themselves stronger," he answered.

"That's stupid."

"It's life."

"No," she argued stubbornly. "This right here, is life. We're living."

Lightningstrike purred at this and the two were once more, romantically engaged. They continued until they heard a screaming nearby.

Another scream split the air, coming from the same cat. It was desperate, bloody and bloodcurdling. Lightningstrike stood, and pushed Dawnpaw behind him as he glanced over toward the source.

A ginger she cat was laying on the ground, whimpering, as a dark Tom hovered over her. There was so much blood. Dawnpaw could not bear the sight and whispered to Lightningstrike.

"We have to go. We can tell Shadowstar," Dawnpaw urged quietly. He was still hesitant.

"She's StormClan." At this, Lightningstrike nodded and they sprinted away, back to camp. The silver Tom glanced up and around at the sound, before glancing back at his victim.

"Please... My mate, Foxheart. I never said goodbye.."

"You never will," he muttered before crushing her windpipe. *Four to*

go.

R.I.P. SPARROWFEATHER

Sister to Flamespirit. The first medicine cat of CaveClan.

This honored she cat was mentored in MountainClan, by the infamous Horsetail. When she was a certified Medicine cat, she departed for CaveClan so that they could have medical care also. In the midst of this, she fell in love with Spottedpelt.

cocowolf12 , Thank you for Sparrowfeather and all that she gave us. We will remember her.

R.I.P. DARKKIT

Daughter of Cinderstar and Blackfire, and only two moons, she was a young soul. We had little of her, but we pray that she enjoys LightClan with her mother.

Your family and clan will remember you.

R.I.P. LILLYLEAP

CaveClan Queen. This she cat was a gentle spirit whom we should've seen more of. She fell in love with Sootfall and they bore a litter of three.

Unfortunately, she was in the final stages of Blackcough and there was no stopping this.

@Whisperflight , Thank you for Lillyleap. May she live in LightClan all the days of her life.

R.I.P. LEAFKIT

First daughter of Lillyleap. This poor young soul died, minutes from her birth. Due to Blackcough, no milk, and other factors, there was no stopping this.

We will remember this poor soul.

R.I.P. ROSEJAY

This young she cat joined DarkClan in its Golden age. The clan was good and the cats were good. She met the love of her life, Foxheart, and they eventually had four offspring.

This was a truly beloved she cat, friend and mother. Perhaps, one of the purest cats in StormClan.

MotherxofxFandoms , I thank you for your participation and unique characters. We will all miss Rosejay, immensely.

Chapter 13

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long

tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami) Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Irisstep

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 2 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 2 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 3 moons. (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 3 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 3 moons. (helloilovecats)

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 4 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (vanessa8101)

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 4 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (TheShadeMaple)

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Cold, icy droplets pelted the ginger tom's pelt steadily. He shifted as this happened, then drearily, opened his eyes. A foreign pine canopy and a murky sky was what they opened to.

Foxheart rose to his feet and turned to his left to see a blurry figure. In his dizziness, he couldn't quite make out the pelt color. He could only make out distinct gray eyes.

"Twistedfoot?"

"Foxheart. It's been awhile."

"It has," he admitted, not quite sure of anything at the moment. Once more he glanced around, but only caught the site of four kits, almost apprentice age, playing nearby.

"Where am I?"

"MountainClan."

"No way.."

"I know. You've been unconscious for almost five days."

"How'd you find this? Weren't you in CaveClan last time I checked?"

"CaveClan is dying. A plague of Blackcough spread and there's no stopping it. So, we headed for MountainClan. RogueClan knew all along and brought us here. I can't tell you anything though, not until I know you won't go back to Thunderstar spewing all this.."

"No. I wouldn't. Not after what Thunderstar did to those kits... But, I have to get back. My home is where my family is," he said, as he stretched his paws, but Twistedfoot quickly stumped his hopes.

"Foxheart,"

"The kits are so great. Best of their age.. I see Moonpaw's and Bluepaw's training daily. Bluepaw. She's so much like her mother..."

"Foxheart. You can't go back."

"What?"

"Things have happened.."

"What!" He repeated, this time in a different tone.

"Someone is attacking StormClan. Inside sources have told us that a murderer has killed cats throughout the empire. Five cats now."

"Who are they?"

"I can't say. I don't know. But the last was from StormClan," Twistedfoot confessed. "Besides, we need you here. You were once loyal to my mentor, Vulturestar. Now, I need you to stay with us once more."

"What do you mean?" Foxheart questioned, before he agreed to anything. *Rosejay. Bluepaw. Steelpaw. Moonpaw. Snakepaw. They come first.*

"Sleetpool and Swiftfawn are planning an attack. Cloudflight, a member of CaveClan, told us that his mother, Honeysuckle was having the side effects of Blackcough. She gave it to her daughter before she disappeared, but she is now presumed dead, so is

Frostpatch. The point is, Thunderstar knew about the sick cats from the beginning. Why else would he Honeysuckle mysteriously disappear?" Twistedfoot declared eloquently. This revelation was enough for Foxheart. Now the strange things Thunderstar did, all made sense.

"Fierceclaw and Palesky were killed. My son witnessed that. They were trying to warn them about a killer.. not Blackcough. Never mind! None of this makes any sense."

"But he killed them. With no probable cause, no instigation.."

"No! There was something. Something my son asked me about because he didn't understand. He said to Palesky, *you are your mother's daughter*. Whose her mother?"

"Jeez. Palesky and Silvershell were originally MountainClan. Their mother was Dapplestone..."

"You're overthinking this, Twistedfoot!" Foxheart quickly interrupted, not wanting to believe the insane alternative that Thunderstar would kill his own offspring. "There's no connection! No correlation between the deaths, disease and Thunderstar! No proof and no reason to hold me!"

"Sleetpool is leading the opposing cats to the empire into battle. She's determined to renew StormClan to a new clan. *StoneClan*."

"There are good cats! You can't hurt my family!"

"We're not going to hurt anyone," Twistedfoot assured him. "We have spies. We're going to begin a revolution. Without his clan, Thunderstar will not engage us. Without them. He's not invincible."

"You're wrong," Foxheart reprimanded him immediately. "He killed her family so I can't blame Sleetpool for her need for retaliation. But my family is alive! They're well! I want them to stay that way.."

"A StormClan cat was murdered, by a tom opposing cats that work with the empire," Twistedfoot repeated, with a more urgent tone. His inflection and expression made Foxheart flinch.

"Who? Who was murdered?" He questioned. Twistedfoot lowered his head before Foxheart rose his voice in demand. "TELL ME!"

"Rosejay. He slaughtered her," he replied coldly. "And you're still... going to go back home."

"Thunderstar didn't do this! Your band of pathetic traitors, did!"

"Thunderstar *didn't kill* Rosejay. But he didn't do anything to stop this. He won't. If you don't help us, your children will die, despite their status in the clan," Twistedfoot said with urgency. They needed him. They needed StormClan.

"I'm not going to stay with the cats that have never ceased to hate us."

"I'll talk to Swiftfawn about it. We aren't even in their camp. In the meantime, you can play with my siblings. Hiddenwatcher will keep an eye on you, so don't pull anything."

After this, Twistedfoot trotted east of the small area toward where camp was located. He had to trot uphill a bit, but he was soon there. However, he was confronted by a cat he hadn't imagined to see, for a very long time.

"Twistedfoot. I need to speak with you."

"No. You need to take advantage of me. I'm not doing this again, Gem. Go back to your quest to become the ultimate hero. I don't give a rat's dung.."

"Please. I want to be with you."

"No you don't! You'd be with me!"

"I'm fighting a war," Gem spat, getting a bit angry at his intolerance.

"And so am I. But there's a clear difference. I care about my friends and kin. But *you*? You don't give.."

"I'm going to die. I just want to be with you while I still can," she whispered before she fell into a pitiful cry. Twistedfoot met her

muzzle to muzzle.

"You're so stubborn. If you'd let me love and protect you, we'd have a life together. We'd defeat Thunderstar together.."

"I'm not that type of she cat. My mother was. I will never be. I don't want to be just any she cat!"

"Unhappiness is your result. Grow up," he finally decided evading her eyes, and stalking past her. He didn't want anything to do with her, until she got her act together. It was him or her heroism. There wasn't room for an in between decision that could hurt more in the long term.

Meanwhile, the province of StormClan was just learning of the recent attack. Thunderstar had yet to make a statement and rumors were spreading.

"He won't attack us, will he?" Hollyfang asked, in a hushed tone. She paced in front of Irisstep and Wishheart while Moltenstream and Reachingbreeze laid idly to the side.

"Of course not," Sagesmoke retorted calmly. She glanced around, an sighed. The forest would protect them and if Thunderstar grew paranoia, it would be crushed in their next plan.

"When is it our turn? It's been a moon of groveling.."

"Patience, Hollyfang. This will not work if we do not have everything planned out. Reachingbreeze and Moltenstream are with us.

"The death of this poor she cat is the fifth. Three more must be killed by Hawk before the first snow, that's the rules.."

"What about the ninth?" Irisstep questioned boldly. Hawk had his ways. He would only inform Sagesmoke of what they needed to know and even then, they didn't know everything.

"I'm not sure. He said it can't be him. It must be an innocent cat.."

"That's vague," Reachingbreeze scowled, while his sister shifted

uncomfortably.

"He has a cat in mind. He told me we must stay out of it. Our job is to keep building the rebellion. Moltenstream, has agreed to join us," Sagesmoke announced clearly, and the cats turned to face her. She gave a brief nod, not quite sure her next action. "As Wishheart, we don't require you hurt anyone. Every member is valid whether you believe in harm or not. However, you must acknowledge that we are secret. If you threaten our cause, we will have to end it. Do you understand?"

"Yes," she replied calmly.

"Very well. We will commence once again on the next sliver moon," Sagesmoke said before they all murmured words. "The Hawkwatch protects. The Hawkwatch defends. The Hawk will fly, when the final thunder strikes."

As the six cats entered, everything was utterly silent as all the cats stared at the ginger body that lie in the center of camp.

Sprucestrike sat near the center of camp waiting for Thunderstar to appear. Once again the leader had been gone to visit the grave of his beloved at an inconvenient time, leaving Bubblefur to answer for him.

When the four cats reached the deputy, Bubblefur stepped forward to explain the situation as she had been in charge of the patrol. "We found Rosejay on the LakeClan border with her vital organs ripped out and a crushed throat. We conclude from the scents of the area that it was a murder plot, enacted by the Third Province."

Sprucestrike narrowed his eyes at this but made no comment. *Shadowstar would never approve of such a clear threat against Thunderstar. LakeClan can't kill Rosejay, whose been a trained member, longer than most the clan.* He thought. Bubblefur joined the crowd of cats around him and the body of Rosejay.

Suddenly the clan as one turned toward the entrance as the scarred tabby tom stumbled into camp. His one eye was red from sleep deprivation and his paws faltered as he meandered toward the

center of camp. This was disappointing and awful for the clan to see him this way.

Sprucestrike knew Thunderstar was in such a state from nightmares, and hallucinations since his constant visits of Dapplestone's grave. Glancing around Thunderstar realized that all the cats were staring at him attentively so he struggled to compose himself better and gestured to an apprentice.

"You, yes you, *Steelpaw*, is it.." Thunderstar ordered with a narrowed eye. "Tell me what happened."

"My mother is dead," Steelpaw replied flatly with rage flickering in his eyes. Thunderstar noticed this but nodded and continued on his way to his deputy. He cast a single glance at the deceased queen before sitting down in front of the clan.

"Thunderstar, are you alright?" Sprucestrike whispered watching the leader cautiously.

"Wonderful," Thunderstar replied with gritted fangs. The leader and deputy were still arguing since their dispute a few days ago. Throwing his gaze over the gathered cats he began his tiresome ritual of sending a cat to the next life. Clearing his throat the leader began. "Foxheart's disappearance and Rosejay's death, has left Moonpaw, Steelpaw, Bluepaw and Snakepaw, unfortunate orphans." Here he stopped as the clan turned to the litter. Bluepaw watched impassively but a storm gathered in her eyes due to the sudden loss her young age could barely accept. Steelpaw glared on with obvious turmoil and anger on his features. Snakepaw trembled but with Jaybird by his side, he didn't blink. Moonpaw was the most openly effected though, falling to his paws, with reluctant tears streaming down his cheek.

"Their beloved parents, have died disgracefully. Leaving these orphans without honor left. We hope that they renew this is the moons to come. May we push through this example with the utmost strength. And we shall take retaliation, as soon as possible. Duties are cancelled for the rest of the day unless I say otherwise. Resume!"

As Thunderstar finished Steelpaw stood up and trotted to the apprentice den. No matter how fast the rest of the clan moved on, he had just lost his mother and that needed time to sink in. Curling up in his warm nest Steelpaw glared at the wall across from him trying to process reasons why this would happen. *Why did she die? She had no fault. And why did dad leave?*Before he came to a conclusion though as Blackpaw interrupted his thoughts.

"I remember loosing mine. It sucks. You want something to blame, but you end up blaming yourself," a soft voice meowed. Steelpaw glanced up to see Blackpaw watching him sympathetically. The tom almost rolled his eyes. He didn't need her sympathy right now. He needed reasons. He needed answers.

"Good for you! Now since that helps me in no way can you please leave?" He asked in a barred tone.

Blackpaw's eyes widened at his rudeness but she ignored. *Grief...* She decided silently. She lay down next to the tom so their fur barely touched. "No, because no matter what you say, being alone in a time like this is the worst way to deal with loss. Why not talk with your siblings?"

Steelpaw glanced at her in surprise but quickly turned away again to glare at the wall. "Thanks. But talking to them wouldn't do any good. And, how would you know that helps? Since all your brothers were here, I mean."

Blackpaw sighed. "Actually, my brother, Toadpaw, is still in the Third Province. Winterpaw and him, were what got me through."

"Do you miss them?" Steelpaw asked turning to look at the she cat. He felt genuinely sad for his fellow apprentice. She had been ripped from her home and dumped in this power struggle. The clan even stressed Steelpaw out at times, and he was born there. Blackpaw however only stared at her paws.

"All the time. Sure, it's better than I thought and I'm truly glad I reunited with my brothers. But, my home is LakeClan."

Steelpaw nodded. "If it helps any, the others like you. Cherrypaw

had family issues. And, Crimsonpaw. Well, she's just... her." Blackpaw glanced up at this and the two laughed until Airflight entered the den. Completely ignoring Steelpaw he immediately turned to Blackpaw with orders.

"Thunderstar gave us a job. Both of us are going."

The she cat stood up confused but followed after him, glancing back at Steelpaw who simply shrugged. Trotting up to the messenger, Blackpaw followed patiently until they reached a clearing nearby Dapplestone's grave.

Thunderstar was sitting in the middle of the clearing hunched over slightly. However when he heard the paw steps of the two cats he perked up with his eye intently watching.

"Does she know her job?" Thunderstar inquired Airflight who answered with a shake of his head. "Then I'll inform her. Blackpaw this is your chance to prove your stance as my granddaughter and possible heir. Airflight and you are going to our Third Province to find out who killed Rosejay. They will deny this for the mere fact, that they didn't do it."

Blackpaw shifted nervously at this. *Why is he admitting this?* His cold glance narrowed and he titled his head, examining her body language. This alone, sent chills down her spine.

"Airflight knows his role but you will remain out of sight. While he is interrogating the clan, you will look on from the behind him and watch for an changing or uneasy faces. If you find anyone who seems fidgety, kill them."

"I don't know how to kill them."

"Fox's dung! You don't think I know where you've been going the past moon? I'm not daft, *kit*. Now both of you go!"

Blackpaw blinked in surprise but Airflight took the command obediently and impassively. He turned away and broke into a sprint forcing Blackpaw out of her thoughts. She lengthened her legs already putting more energy than she would like into her pace to

keep her level with her mentor.

"You better be able to do this. I can't disappoint him. I'm going to have kits with Cedarlily soon. I want my kits to have a bright future. Try Blackpaw," Airflight meowed sternly.

Sucking in her breath slightly Blackpaw replied shakily. "I will do what Thunderstar said. I'll watch the cats."

Airflight scoffed at this. "These are *not* your clanmates. I don't care whose innocent, you'll kill them for example. You'll kill them for loyalty? Is that clear?" Silence met this statement as Blackpaw couldn't assure herself she could speak without crying. Airflight turned his head to glare at her but still received no response.

"Thunderstar... I don't like him either," Airflight sighed, rephrasing his words. For once in their training, her mentor came to a halt. "I push you. And, I realize I'm really harsh. But it's only because I want the best for you. Even if you're a willowy, cry baby, I still believe you're a very talented she cat. And you are a true warrior of StormClan, despite what occurs. Alright?"

Blackpaw nodded and the silence resumed. The tempest of quiet clung to these two until they reached the LakeClan border. Here Blackpaw fell back while the tom continued onward to the camp.

As she trotted behind her mentor, Blackpaw thought through the options for the most plausible choices for Rosejay's murderer. *Shadowstar is too responsible, she would never do this hurt her clan or her new mate. Rockfall now has a mate and kits to watch over so definitely not him. Apprentices and elders could never hope to battle Rosejay and kill her... So it's definitely a warrior*. Blackpaw sighed. This job would be her hardest by far.

When she reached the LakeClan camp, she had to force down the homesickness swelling and driving her to rush inside to her brother and friends. Instead the black she-cat prowled around the edges and slipped through some rushes near the elders den. Finding a spot behind a clump of ferns she huddled down and watched with anxiety flickering inside her as Shadowstar called the clan into attendance.

"Airflight has informed me of a death that recently occurred near our borders. Rosejay, a queen of the First Province was murdered yesterday." The expected sounds and sighs of sympathy resounded in the camp, but Airflight still watched them cautiously. "If anyone has any information about this, you have an obligation to step forward as our province is being searched for the murderer." More expected sounds resulted as the cats all were outraged by the accusation.

However Dawnpaw stepped forward. Shock passed through Shadowstar's eyes while Airflight's eyes flashed in vengeance. The young she cat shifted and she began to illustrate what had occurred.

"Yesterday Lightningstrike and I were out... and we overheard shouts. When we went over to help though, the she cat was already dead. A dark silver tom was the one to kill her though. We saw him right before he took off."

Shadowstar nodded relieved before turning to Airflight. "There. Our province has given you a lead to the murderer. We still offer our condolences to her family and pray that you being justice to the murderer."

"They will be given to the family, thank you," Airflight dipped his head but spoke drily. "However, there is no way to know this apprentice's allegations are honest. She and Lightningstrike, will have to return with us, for further interrogation."

Shadowstar opened her mouth to protest, but Rockfall cut her off. "Thank you for coming to visit, Airflight. It's always a pleasure to have the First Province show us *such* importance. However, our clan members would need to legal protection, if traveling into the first province. Perhaps, Shadowstar? Could represent them?"

Airflight sat in thought for a moment before nodding in agreement. "Very well. Thank you for your corporation."

Airflight led Dawnpaw, Lightningstrike and Shadowstar out of camp. From where Blackpaw was crouched she could see the dissatisfaction in her former clanmate's eyes.

However she was joyful that they weren't risking death by her claw, and she would have time to think of something before Thunderstar got his claws on them.

After shifting around to loosen the muscles of their stiffness, the she cat slid out from her hiding place to meet up with her mentor, the LakeClan cat to return home. But as most things, it didn't quite go as planned.

"I can't believe your helping them. You're still with them," Dawnpaw scolded Blackpaw quietly. Blackpaw glared at the older she cat with a bit of annoyance.

"What do you want me to do, die?" As Blackpaw murmured these words, s faint rusting came from the nearby shore. A few cedars lined the shore, and reeds lined the coast underneath. From this, came a dark silver figure with laminating eyes.

"What do we have here?"

"*Hawk*..."

"You know him!" Lightningstrike accused fiercely before Dawnpaw and him moved many lengths away.

"Blackpaw?" Hawk suddenly said, changing his tone completely. "Get out!"

Airflight nudged Blackpaw and began sprinting off. Something was wrong, but there was a tone in Hawk's voice that was urgent. She didn't second guess it, and her and her mentor left.

Dawnpaw shrieked when Hawk attacked Shadowstar. He grappled onto her pelt viscously, before dragging her to the ground.

"Go!" The leader shouted before her hind legs jutted into Hawk's side. He huffed, but frowned and continued the objective. He managed to pin her head to the ground, and gaining traction, he bit into her neck savagely. This left Shadowstar vitally injured. *Six down. Two to go*.

Hawk cough the bloody fur before glancing at Lightningstrike and

Dawnpaw a few cat-lengths away. He ultimately decided, it wasn't worth it, so he disappeared once again.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting as always. I love to hear from your hilarious comments. Sometimes sad, but... mostly interesting.

Half of this chapter was written by WildUntilTheEnd! You're the best! And thank you for the inspiration.

Shadowstar did not die. She lost one of her lives.

Chapter 14

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long

tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami) Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Irisstep

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 2 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 2 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 3 moons. (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 3 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 3 moons. (helloilovecats)

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 4 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (vanessa8101)

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 4 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-

The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.
(MidnightMoon1323)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Hunters:
Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.
(MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Messenger:
Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Cinderstar

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Kits:
Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 2 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 3 moons. (Starshine28)

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey

patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Expecting Badgerclaw's kits.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Hunters:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Expecting Ottertail's kits. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (TheShadeMaple)

Zodiacpelt- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp)

Leopardfang- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Apprentices:
Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_)

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght)

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

"We are facing a major threat," the long furred she cat began. Her dark muzzle was frowned in distress. "Last night, while we willingly left for the first province, we were attacked by a silver furred tom. I was the only victim, losing my life, and my kit's life.." The clan was shocked at this, yet no one let out a sound. Maplewood rested his head, lowly, before stalking out of camp. "There were four other cats present. Dawnpaw and Lightningstrike left, and haven't been seen since. Airflight and Blackpaw were the other two. And after a disturbing revelation, I have reason to believe StormClan has plotted with this rogue to destroy LakeClan."

"That doesn't make any sense!" Dragonstone interrupted through the side chatter. "Rosejay and Nightjet were both killed by this tom. StormClan wouldn't kill its own cats just for our manipulation.."

"Yes, they would! Skystar was murdered by her own mate, who was manipulated by his father. There is nothing, those cats wouldn't do!"

"No, I agree with Dragonstone. You're taking this out of context," Rockfall replied boldly. She sighed and looked down to her paws.

"I don't care, anymore. Our own have been attacked. Marshpaw was killed by this rogue! We must take action," Shadowstar said, distress in her voice.

"That's not the way of LakeClan!" Sweetbreeze intercepted.

"No? We don't attack, unless attacked first. I call this an attack and I was vengeance. We need to resolve this before it happens once more."

"Not by your claw," Sweetbreeze snapped.

The clan froze at their leader's outburst. She had never acted with such anger. It made the clan nervous.

"This clan is full of pansies!" Burrclaw shouted loudly. The clan turned to face them in unison. He narrowed his eyes and spit on the ground. "When served that warlord, *Thunderstar*, he never gave death the time of day! He didn't speak nor think about it, and he never questioned his warrior's strength. Now, there's nothing right with his morals, but he knows how to win! If we ever want to get out of the gutter, and eat rabbits and water fowl again, we need to learn how to win!"

"Yah!" Cougarpaw cheered, with Duckkit and Heronkit. Shadowstar frowned and glared at him.

"So you expect us to treat our clan like dung and kill the weak for the sake of winning?" Shadowstar challenged heavily. Burrclaw stalked toward the leader's low branch with a huff.

"*You think* all StormClan cats hunger to kill. You're missing the point! Thunderstar is the enemy. The enemy general but he's a good one! He rallies and trains his troops. How do you expect to reclaim your home if you don't act like a general?"

"Fine, *Burrclaw*. Teach us how to win," she said with beady eyes. Burrclaw titled his head in confusion.

"That's it?"

"So us how it's done.

"Well."

"Unless, you don't know how.."

"I'll teach you how alright..." Burrclaw promised as he began his training.

Meanwhile, the CaveClan cats woke to a bleak dawn. The cold night had not helped anyone.

"You should've never came back," Cinderstar coughed, to the silver she cat. Silvershell was catching the disease as they spoke. It was evident, she was exposed when Clawkit, Lillyleap's tom kit had died only a few days later.

"I had to, for them."

"The chances of Amberkit surviving are slim. I don't know why you stay.."

"If everyone gave up on the weak, we wouldn't have the strong," she replied calmly, licking the kit fondly as she slept. She had just woken up. It had been three days, and the death toll was escalating. Clawkit, was the next to pass. And the other's conditions were worsening. "Who died in the night?"

"Nightpaw, only. Blazepaw is with Flarepaw as we speak. He's leaving.."

"This is horrible. Young and talented cats, having to die before their

time. It's unjust," Silvershell exasperated, as a tear streaked down her face.

Everyone that remained in CaveClan, had gathered in the warrior's den. The disease filled the air and leftover prey, so there was no use in trying to avoid the inevitable.

As she rested quietly beside Cinderstar, she noticed his coughing began to stop. She glanced up to see the leader was on the floor, in weakness. His eyes searched frantically as he choked on his own blood.

Silvershell whimpered at the sight, knowing that there was nothing she could do to ease the pain. At her whimpers, Blazepaw shot into the den and looked over Cinderstar.

"Fight it, Cinderstar. Don't let it take all of you. We need you here," Blazepaw begged. Silvershell and Blazepaw both watched as the leader convulsed. It only occurred once before he grew still. Suddenly, his eyes shot open and he rose to his paws with wide eyes. Although weak, he was still stronger than before. He spat out the blood that had collected in his throat and looked at them.

"It was one."

"Go now! You should be healthy," Blazepaw said.

"No. I'm not leaving my clan. I don't care if I get it again, I won't leave my family and friends to did, ever again." At this, Blazepaw sighed and laid down. Sweat dribbled down her cheek, despite the cool cave. "But, I will go get some fresh kill. You both will need it to overcome this." Cinderstar trotted out of the cave and down the plateau before Silvershell turned to Blazepaw.

"How's Flarepaw?"

"He's gone. Both my littermates. *Gone*."

"I'm so sorry," Silvershell

"No. I shouldn't be complaining. Not after everything you lost."

"No! What I have lost is something compared to you. Besides, it's unhealthy to think that way," she said with a soothing tone. The silver she cat glanced down at the newborn who was just awaking. Silvershell sighed and pressed the kit to her belly.

"Everyone must bear a burden. It's just how life works. I personally, don't like it, but I just try to make the best of it."

"Don't you feel anything! I can't accept this life dung, because all my family is dead! I should be dead with them, but I'm not! *Why is that?* I'm not a hero! I'm not a great a warrior as Flarepaw, or a graceful Hunter like Nightpaw. They were something! I am*, nothing.* Even my job I can't do."

"Stop it! I loved my mother, and she turned out to be a murderer. She killed my little sister. Tinyfear would've survived if I was there to protect her. But they were ambushed and she was slaughtered. Then Palesky.. I should be with them. I shouldn't be alive as that she cat's child. All she did was hurt. All Vulturestar did was hurt. I should be like them? Right?"

"No.."

"Exactly. You're not met to be a replica of your siblings. Death is the biggest injustice the stars can plague us with! But I refuse, to believe that you should've died instead of your siblings. *We need you*!"

"You need Sparrowfeather! So did Spottedpelt. But they're both dead! Just leave me alone!" Blazepaw screamed before stalking off and into the herb storage. While CaveClan fought the depths of depression, so did others elsewhere.

Snakepaw sat quietly, listening to Jaybird's lecture about animal bites. But he wasn't truly listening.

All he could see was the massive gouge that had split his mother open. The blood must've splattered the attacker. He probably has it in his fur, still...

"Snakepaw? Are you listening?" Jaybird questioned stiffly. He

nodded but when she turned, grumbled.

"No."

"Why not?"

"Why are we learning about bites? Why aren't we learning about, how to fix gouges or bleeding? Why can't we learn something *useful!*"

"Very well. Get out and go find Thunderstar!"

"What?"

"Tell him that you no longer want to do useless things! And tell him you're no longer a medicine cat apprentice, while you're at it!"

"That's not what I meant."

"Yes it is. Listen to me, for once today. My father died when I was your age. But as a weak blind she cat, I couldn't go wandering off to avenge him! I did what I knew I could do. I found Coltsfoot and Burdock root and I healed the bites on my siblings."

"Yeah! Well I can't heal anything. Jeez. Don't you get it? My mother and father are gone, and my siblings are wrecks! What am I supposed to do?"

"I said, *listen,"* Jaybird hissed before she replied,"heal the wounds."

Snakepaw became silent and nodded. With a flick of the she cat's tail, he left the den to find his siblings. Training sessions had been lesser lately, since Thunderstar was becoming mad. Sprucestrike enjoyed the rest enough to not push it, so the apprentices ended up having lots of free time.

"Steelpaw.."

"What is it?" He replied quietly.

"Can I talk with you? Moonpaw and Bluepaw?"

"I don't think that's a great idea."

"There is no great idea," Snakepaw retorted. Steelpaw sighed and glanced over to Blackpaw who eyed him, urging him to go through with it. "Fine."

After they left the apprentice's den, they looked around for their other two siblings. When it became apparent that they were not in camp, they turned to one of the hunter's for help.

"I believe they're hunting, bigger birds," Duskwater explained, with a smile. The young toms nodded and headed for the open land, jumping from rock to rock.

The two brothers glanced at the sky, subconsciously. They spotted two birds, while another one watched them from higher above. As they examined the area closer, they spotted a small slim ginger figure slinking across the rocks. She slowly followed a white rabbit as the rabbit moved closer under the birds.

When the bird of prey spotted the rabbit, he circled a few times more before dropping into a dive. At the moment the vulture made its move, Bluepaw did the same. The hawk's talons grasped the bird and at the same time, Moonpaw and Bluepaw burst into the air, landing on the hawk.

"Don't let go!" Moonpaw snapped bitterly as Bluepaw began to lose her grip on the catch. As Moonpaw said it, he slipped and the Hawk left from both their grasps.

"Fox-dung!"

"You mousebrain!"

"Guys," Steelpaw interrupted, tired of their bickering.

"We need to talk," Snakepaw added on. Bluepaw slithered away from them before eyeing them with disdain.

"I already told you! I don't want to talk about either of them," Bluepaw retorted quickly, trying to evade her brothers by heading back to camp.

"We can talk at camp, in front of everyone if you'd like?" Snakepaw offered with a salty tone. Bluepaw scoffed and spun around.

"Talk away."

"Dad didn't leave us."

"He did. It's a fact," Steelpaw intercepted Snakepaw, making him shift on his paws.

"Are you serious? Dad would never," Moonpaw murmured in defense. The other two were much to hurt by his disappearance and pressed with the questions that followed.

"Foxheart did leave. He was a coward!" Bluepaw spat.

"Take that back," Moonpaw threatened. His sister recoiled, and lashed her tail.

"It's true. That's why he and mom never left with Sleetpool. It's not loyalty. It's *cowardice*.."

"*My* father is loyal!" Moonpaw yelled.

"Well, *mine* is a coward," Bluepaw sneered in reply.

"Stop it, Bluepaw," Steelpaw demanded. She was getting out of claw, and it was taking a toll on both of her brothers. At his words, she only grew more furious. This time, it was directed at him.

"*Stop it?* You wanted to talk!" She said glaring at her three brothers. "If you wanted a sweet confession-circle where we end in cloud gazing, you should've gone to another cat."

"Why are you acting like this?"

"I'm the only one who says it as it is! If you whimps, can't handle it, you should've never asked me to come!" She screamed before taking off. *Anywhere is better.*

Bluepaw sprinted out of sight, toward LakeClan and down one of the underground caverns. They weren't big, but good for thought.

"Fox-dung, *mom.. Why*?"

"She didn't want to go..." A she cat's voice whispered to her.

"*Then, why?*"

"Sometimes kin will leave you," the voice said, "half-way through the woods."

"She left us. He left us. Who am I supposed to honor, to take care of, to make proud!"

"You're not alone," at these words, Bluepaw gazed into the cavern's shadows. She saw no silhouette, only two crimson silts.

Suddenly, the she cat slipped out of the shadows and into the place where the light touched. The she cat was about a moon or two older, and full. Her features were soft and her gaze was comforting.

"You're LakeClan?"

"Indeed. I'm Zodiacpelt, of LakeClan."

"I should probably take you in," Bluepaw murmured in realization.

"The territory is close enough. Besides, LakeClan cats don't cause trouble. You know that," Zodiacpelt said with a smile.

"Why are you here then?"

"I have dreams and visions. And at times, they overwhelm the cats around me. So, I've used the underground tunnels and caverns to observe," she replied calmly. Even by Bluepaw's mention of taking here to StormClan, she didn't flinch. *Something's different.*

"You have powers?"

"No. It's a gift. I can't flaunt around and use it whenever I want. My mother, well adopted mother, Voidstar, didn't understand. I just see the spirits of cats. I visit and consul them, and try to consul their friends and kin.."

"You see dead cats."

"I saw your mother," she countered with a steady tone. "Recently, I've seen the murder of seven cats. Each I could explain to you in explicit detail, but I would not prefer that."

"What about my mother?" Bluepaw asked frantically.

"I saw her," Zodiacpelt repeated.

"What did she say?"

"She didn't say anything. I saw her as she died and joined LightClan."

"You're lying," Bluepaw snapped, suddenly.

"Why would I?"

"Fine. If you saw her die, who killed her?" Bluepaw challenged.

"A rogue I once knew. A rogue whose mixed ideology will send StormClan into the biggest power struggle there has been," she declared with heavy eyes. "I only ask this of you, tell Thunderstar to beg forgiveness now. For this rogue, will soon have a curse that will run through his claws and destroy many innocent lives. It is unfortunate, that it has already begun."

As Zodiacpelt finished her warning, she left the ginger she cat through the hidden tunnels. Bluepaw left the tunnels and headed for camp, consoled yet burning with newfound knowledge.

When the sun began to set, CaveClan met an unexpected surprise. Cinderstar, sat alone on plateau. The fierce wind blew against his right flank, and the trees blew the same. Precipitation began to mix with the wind, and sleet steadily, began to line the forest.

The silver Tom was about to leave for the shelter the cave, when a figure appeared from the tree line. A light colored cat trotted through the storm and toward camp. At this, Cinderstar shot to his paws, and inspected the fat closer.

"What are you doing!"

"Saving my clan," she muffled through the herb leaves. She passed Cinderstar and rushed into the camp, immediately heading to Blazepaw.

"Shymask, what're.."

"Catmint. Give it to all of the survivors. Wake them up," Shymask replied dropping the collection at her paws. She kept one leaf and continued to the warrior's den.

"Shymask, you'll get yourself.."

"I'll be fine. Do as I said," Shymask demanded before she hung over her dying son. Fairshade, formerly a handsome cream tom, was now sickly and ragged. Her poor son was already in the final stages, coughing up blood at gradually increasing quantities.

"Mom," he coughed weakly.

"Eat it."

"It doesn't matter now..."

"Then fight it. Come on!"

"Why?"

"Because you need to be here for your brother. Your sister. Your sister's kits.. I can't protect them anymore."

"Why not?" Fairshade murmured.

"LightClan wants me. I also need to go pay someone a visit.."

"That ridiculous," he coughed once more.

"Eat it and go to sleep. I'm not losing you."

R.I.P CLAWKIT

This young kit of Lillyleap and Sootfall, had a very very oblique childhood. May the promises of LightClan provide him enjoy he couldn't receive on earth.

R.I.P SPOTTEDPELT

Struck down by the same disease that killed his beloved mate. This young tom was a CaveClan veteran, surviving and overcoming what others did not.

@JinxTheRogue, we will also remember this charming tom in our hearts. May he and Spottedpelt live happily in LightClan.

R.I.P NIGHTPAW

This young she cat, died of Blackcough as the rest of her family did. This young spirit was a gracious spirit and an image of her mother.

@Wolfsprite7263 We will remember her.

R.I.P. FLAREPAW

This energetic young tom should've died on the battlefield, with his warrior name and clanmates by his side. But instead, he passed in the grimy remains of the CaveClan stronghold, dying a very painful death.

@Pickochu Thank you for the time you spent with us! We will remember him!

And to all thanks for spending your life with this story! Each and every one of you who are still with us.

I am very saddened at how many inactive accounts there are. Where they were here, many millenniums ago, but now, they vanished sometimes literally.

Did you know that half the accounts are dead or quit reading? Very sad.

I don't mind, but don't get mad, when I bring in a plague. The entry is closed currently because there's so much dead weight.

If you can't put in the time of day, you don't deserve to be here. Because yes, in updating at 1:00 am my time, with my eyes burning, to appease you. Because I love you guys. And I love cats.

Usually I don't like to disrespect the dead cats but I have exciting news.

Myself, and four other Wattpaders have started the United_Fandom_CO, a group set on finding the best, brightest and original fanfictions out there.

The account is up currently and so are a few stories, which will be updated when my fellow administers decide to check their accounts. *Cough*. You know who you are. *Cough*. Get your butts on Wattpad.

Anyways, go check it out if you'd like. There isn't anything specific for Warrior cats, however.

Have a nice day!

Chapter 15

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker stripes that run along her back and speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has clouded blue eyes but she is blind. (X_RandomKat_X)
Apprentice:
Snakepaw- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Hunters:
Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features. (Wolfishthoughts)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long

tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Crimsonpaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood) Mentor: Thunderstar

Vicepaw- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami) Mentor: Moonbliss

Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)
Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Steelpaw- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)
Mentor: Sprucestrike

Bluepaw- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)
Mentor: Brightfire

Moonpaw- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Mentor: Irisstep

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)
Kits: Ivorykit and Vinekit

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 2 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 2 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 3 moons. (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 3 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 3 moons. (helloilovecats)

Russetkit- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. 4 moons. (Spokenwrites)

Stormkit- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (vanessa8101)

Batkit- a black tabby she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. 4 moons.

Fernkit- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Ebonykit- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. 4 moons. (Kat124816)

Province of CaveClan-

The second rank:

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat apprentice:
Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.
(MidnightMoon1323)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Hunters:
Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.
(MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear.

Messenger:
Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Tidepaw- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Cinderstar

Silentpaw- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. Mentor: Fairshade (GamerVSReader)

Duskpaw- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Queens:
Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Kits:
Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 2 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 3 moons. (Starshine28)

Wildkit- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey

patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. 4 moons. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Commitkit- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurakit- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomkit- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. 4 moons. (GamerGirl13x)

"Why didn't you take the Catmint?" Blazepaw questioned with frantic eyes. Shymask glanced back at her and shook her head.

"There was only so much. The cats in these clans need it more."

"You mousebrain! You're going to die! We're going to die!" She spat violently. This was the one time she couldn't compose herself. Shymask had brought the herbs nearly a half moon ago and they were finally getting better, when Shymask suddenly dropped into the worse side effects.

"Silvershell, Amberkit and Cinderstar have gone. You should too. Fairshade will take you to the others.."

"I'll get them infected! I've been around sick cats for more than a moon!" Blazepaw scowled heavily.

"You're immune Blazepaw. How do you suppose your whole family died, and you stayed without a blemish of Blackcough?" Shymask asked with the tilt of her head. The young she cat hissed and stalked away.

"I never wanted this. I never wanted my family to die."

"You think *I* wanted this? You think anyone *wanted this*? I wanted to live out my years with Stormchaser and our kits, and see my first litter have their own kits that would play with mine. I wanted peace. I got war. I wanted health. I have three legs. We don't always

get what we want."

"The disease could be clinging to my fur!" Blazepaw insisted. Shymask shook her head in argument.

"Go to the stream and wash yourself. Don't let the clan come back to this camp until the snow of leaf-bare melts and the new-leaf's rains, throughly wash this stone. Only flooding could cleanse this clan.."

"I shall leave you then. However, I'll send Fairshade over," Blazepaw decided before trotting off to collect any remaining herbs. Shortly, Fairshade joined his mother in the only den. He kept a safe distance.

Shymask's eyes rose to meet his, and they held each other's glance for a good time. Both, mother and son shared identical amber eyes.

"How are you feeling?" Fairshade asked, only for the sake of spurring conversation.

"I could care less how I feel. I'm worried about you though. And your brother.."

"What about him?"

"Why the tone? What happened between you two? I thought when he joined CaveClan with the other StormClan cats, things would get better," she said with narrowed eyes.

"He killed my brother. He takes what he wants without regard for others."

"Flintpaw's death was a tragedy but he had to fight for his clan at the time. It's the price of clan. Clan before blood. I surely told you that as kits.."

"Yeah. A couple times..."

"It's about Gem, isn't it?"

"Who told you?"

"It matters little. As always, I care about you," she said with a motherly expression. Fairshade sighed.

"I've learned my lesson. My obsession with the she cat was unhealthy. I am focused on being a deputy, until my leader wishes me otherwise. Clan before blood," Fairshade replied without expression. His past behavior ashamed him so much, that he didn't have a will to surpass the sickness. He was on the brink of death when his mother arrived with the herbs. Fairshade was convinced, that the only reason he survived, was for LightClan's will.

"Love is not a wrong choice. Love is a gift..."

"More of a curse. Nevertheless, You're wrong, mother. Love is a choice. Not a gift given by the stars," Fairshade scoffed. Shymask frowned.

"And you, my son, are wrong."

"Tell me then, mother. Was Rockdust a miraculous gift that you fell in love with at first sight?"

"No. He was a dirty rogue whom I came to admire over the moons," she replied.

"Then it was a choice."

"I admire your stubbornness, Fairshade. It's like your father in many ways," she coughed. The single cough led into a series of painful coughs.

"Are you alright?" Fairshade asked quickly, as she cowered over in pain.

"Of course not," she snickered before she coughed a bit of blood. "Just go with Blazepaw before the worse occurs."

"Mousebrain, mother. A son doesn't leave his mother.."

"I love you. I will not allow you to see me die like this," Shymask exasperated as she fell into more coughs.

"Yes. The mighty Shystar, shall stop me!" Fairshade chuckled. Shymask laid her head down and gave a weak smile.

"This isn't your last life, is it?" Her silence was answer enough. She closed her eyes and swallowed, the blood sitting in her throat.

"I imagine each of you shall lead three different clans, one day. Twistedfoot in the remains of StormClan, Blitzfire as a mother in MountainClan, and you, leading CaveClan. I couldn't be prouder of you, three. Please, watch over the younger four. Make sure.. They know their place."

Fairshade was careful to bury her body, in a deep grave. Animals would eat anything in the dead of lead-bare. He then pushed a few cat-sized stones over her grave. He would remember the grave, below the tree, and just outside of the cave. However, her last words, became the ones that would haunt Fairshade for many moons. *Make sure they know their place*.

Meanwhile, a long journey was almost complete for the ginger tom. After nearly a half moon of travel, he had finally made it to the province of StormClan, once more.

When the jagged rock was in sight, nothing stopped him from barreling toward home. He caught sight of a small patrol in the distance, but wasn't prepared to wait. He had to get home.

When his feet touched the soft, dirt of camp, he sighed and glanced around. Thunderstar sat below jagged rock, cleaning himself ominously when he noticed the hunter's return. The leader cocked his head to one side, and stood challenging the tom's presence.

"Blackpaw!" He beckoned with his voice and she appeared from the apprentice's den. "Get everyone back to camp. We are going to have a meeting."

The young she cat raced off obediently, while the cats in camp searched for the disturbance. Snakepaw was the first of his kits to see him, and barreled toward his father with no other thought.

Snakepaw buried his nose into his father's fur and he did the same.

"They said you left. They said you weren't coming back. But I knew you would."

"Dad?" Moonpaw whispered as he entered camp with the hunting patrol. He two joined his brother in the reunion, while Bluepaw stayed away. The fact that he was alive, disturbed her even more. *Where was he?*

"Now, now! Let's calm down everyone. Take your positions and we shall begin!" Thunderstar ordered as he took his place on the jagged rock. At his words, the clan filed into their positions in line, by rank, then age. "It seems that one of our hunter's has returned. Foxheart, do you care to explain your disappearance."

"Yes," Foxheart replied stepping into sight. "I found MountainClan."

The reaction to this was priceless. Many cats gasped while others frowned. Everyone thought they were dead or beyond reach.

"I'm afraid that's blasphemy," Thunderstar muttered.

"There's a resistance of MountainClN survivors and RogueClan. They're building an army!"

"And spying on them, took you nearly half a moon?"

"Well-"

"Cats of StormClan, witness a traitor to the clan. One that has lied and joined the other side.."

"What! No," Steelpaw muttered. Jaybird glanced toward the ginger tom and he stopped, but it didn't stop Thunderstar. The dark gray tabby stalked across camp until he was in front of Foxheart. Then, he lifted his right paw, but stopped in the middle of the strike.

"Steelpaw. Since you object, why don't you do the honors. List his crimes and punish your father," Thunderstar demanded with a glint in his eyes. Steelpaw's eyes widened at this, knowing that he couldn't deny the leader's orders or there would be consequences.

Steelpaw stepped forward, and from the corner of his eyes, his saw

Bluepaw trembling madly. However, he kept his gaze on his father. He was almost the same height as him, growing toward warrior-ship age.

"You left us. When you left us, you weren't there for mother. She went looking for you, and that's how she died. You're not a true member of StormClan, you're a coward," Steelpaw spat, as he trembled with uncertainty. Not in his words, but in his actions.

"Cowardice, is a crime punishable by death. Steelpaw," Thunderstar continued with the flick of his tail. Foxheart stared into his son's eyes with a longing, that he would do the right thing. *Don't fall to their level.*

Steelpaw unsheathed his claws and pinned Foxheart to the ground, as his father wriggled senselessly, before his sunk his claws into his throat, quick and cleanly. Moonpaw began to curse at him as he did this, while Irisstep and Moonbliss held him back. Bluepaw looked at her paws, avoiding Snakepaw's glance.

"Steelpaw, come to the foot of the jagged rock. Crimsonpaw, and Vicepaw also," Thunderstar requested calmly. "Loyalty is rewarded in my clan. You three have always proved that and are of age. Do you promise to uphold the law of the empire, at all costs?"

"I do."

"I do."

"I do," Steelpaw breathed, looking down at his paws.

"Then from this day forward, Crimsonpaw shall be known as Crimsonclaw, for her passion. Vicepaw shall be known as Vicefang, for his words. And Steelpaw shall be known as Steelstrike, for the wisdom his mentor passed along."

"Thunderstar.."

"Yes, Jaybird," the leader replied, glancing over to the humble she cat. The medicine cat flinched.

"I have received a vision. The final attack is coming tonight," she

replied, with little inflection or surprise. Thunderstar came to his paws, visibly furious.

"Your superstition is not for the ears of clan, Jaybird!"

"Why not?" Duskwater asked. Thunderstar's head turned to face the she cat, who shifted nervously at his gaze. "With all due respect sir... Why not?"

"*Because*, I said so."

"Why not!" Hollyfang snapped, with a irritated tone to her voice. She moved to face Thunderstar, who towered over her and the rest of the clan.

"Because Jaybird is a *blind fool*, whose visions are brought up spontaneously, when she feels like it!"

"You have no right, to call me a fool!" Jaybird hissed.

"I have every right. I am your leader."

"LightClan, the sun, the moon and the stars are my only leaders.."

"Very well. Join Foxheart, on the stone ground and star gaze, *until you rot*!" Thunderstar sneered hatefully wrote stalking off into his den. The clan was in complete shock. Bluewisp was urgent to get the kits inside and away from Thunderstar's words. Sagesmoke and Wishheart exchanged knowing glances before they headed to the warrior's den with many other supporters.

While the clan tried to calm down from the chaotic meeting, it was only troubled once more, as Moonpaw engaged Steelstrike.

"You piece of fox-dung! I'll kill you myself!" Moonpaw gritted his teeth and Snakepaw quickly rushed to his side.

"What's done is done."

"He killed Foxheart. Our father! I never want to speak to you again, *Steeldung!"* Moonpaw spat before leaving for the apprentice's den. Snakepaw followed him, but remembered that Jaybird was also in

need of counsel.

"I understand why you did it, Steelstrike. I blame you nor father. And, congratulations on your name," Bluepaw said as she glanced over their father's body quietly. She quickly left.

"This isn't how I wanted to earn my name. Killing my father," Steelpaw murmured to himself, not expecting anyone to listen.

"I'm sorry," Blackpaw whispered, as she came up behind him. He didn't spare the she cat a glance but nodded. "It's not your fault... you know."

"Thanks.. But, it is."

R.I.P SHYMASK

Born half-clan, half-rogue to PureClan, far from the clans of the mountains, Shymask had no easy life. She was teased for her origin and quiet personality, but she quickly proved herself and became Shystar. Many moons later, she welcomed a rogue, Rockdust into the clan. In the midst of this, Sprucestrike tried to murder her deputy and his brother, Birchshiver.

She managed to exile Sprucestrike, but by the time peace was gained, her clan was destroyed. Shymask left, pregnant with a litter of four. Those four kits proved to be influential in the clans of the mountains.

She had a second chance at love with Stormchaser, a handsome MountainClan tom. But he was also taken from her, prematurely.

GamerGirl13x I couldn't be more thankful or happy with Shymask and the role she has played in this series. If you hadn't personally requested her death, I was going to keep her around forever. Not only was she a unique character with tons of backstory, but her kits became unique and special in their own ways.

Leader, Mother, friend, and warrior, we will forever remember Shymask.

R.I.P FOXHEART

Foxheart came to DarkClan without high hopes. He was willing manipulate or flip sides to survive. This trait followed him, but he proved to be a loyal warrior to Vulturestar and never doubted leadership until Thunderstar. He never questioned orders and became a skilled tracker and Hunter.

It wasn't until after the return of StormClan that Rosejay and him gave birth to four kits.

WolfishThoughts Thank you for Foxheart! I was very pleased with Foxheart as a character. I hope you were also. We will remember this DarkClan tom, and the great father he was.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting! Plots twists and advice is always welcome.

Chapter 16

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Expecting Badgerclaw's kits.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Hunters:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Expecting kits.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Expecting Ottertail's kits. (EpicSavior)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Expecting kits.

Zodiacpelt- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp)

Leopardfang- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Apprentices:
Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Finchpaw- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy) Mentor: Inkjet

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Mentor: Lightsplash

Winterpaw- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex) Mentor: Mistyshine

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 1 moon.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 1 moon.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 1 moon.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

"Alright, Theia, do what your brother just did," Darkness sat and waited the small, black she cat to run at her brother.

Trigon stood in a defensive position on the other side of the circle of dirt. Theia swallowed nervously, and slowly walked into the circle.

"You can do it! Trigon's easy," Theia's other brother reassured her from the sidelines.

"Am not!" Trigon hissed, and shifted his paws on the soft dirt. "You're just too big."

"You're just too small!"

"That's enough!" Darkness ordered. "Drogo, I want silence on the sidelines. Theia," he turned to his daughter. "The first cat knocked out of the circle loses, and gets to do two laps around the palace."

Theia stifled a groan. She was the smallest, and Drogo would easily knock her out of the circle if she was able to take down Trigon, who seemed to care less about battle training than he did about watching twolegs go about their strange business.

Trigon turned his head to the side, and gave her a wink. "Don't worry," he whispered. "I'll go easy on you."

"What!" Theia hissed, and rushed forward, claws unsheathed and slashing. "I don't need you to go easy on me!" She tackled her brother, and they fought scrappily, with Theia holding fast to the taller cat's back. Trigon rolled to the middle of the circle to make her let go of him, but she still held onto his back with her claws.

"Ow! Stop that, it hurts!" Trigon mewed pathetically, and shook his pelt again. Theia used her small size and light weight to climb to the middle of his back and hold on with all of her strength. *I'm not losing so easily, brother!*

"Buck her off!" Drogo shouted, his golden fur fluffed with excitement. His crystal blue eyes gleamed.

"Quiet!" Darkness ordered again. Before the fight could get out of hand, he intervened. "That's enough. Enough!"

Trigon rolled onto his side, exhausted, and Theia sat next to him, looking smug. *There*.

Darkness shook his head, exasperated. "Theia, you were supposed to knock your brother out of the circle, not maul him and make him hairless."

"I didn't maul him, father!" Theia argued, glancing at her scratched brother. There were several marks on his back, but they would all heal. "And who cares? He should have blocked me."

Drogo clawed at the dirt. All this talk of battle moves was excitin. "You couldn't have mauled me! I know how to block!"

Trigon rolled his eyes, and got to his feet. "I'm hot and dirty. Can I go now?"

Darkness nodded. "Fine. Go help your mother. There are new cats in the palace, and she wants you to meet them."

The two toms immediately ran to go meet possible playmates. At eight moons, they were the youngest cats in the palace, and were often bored just playing with each other.

Maybe the new cats had brought toms their age! Theia started to follow after her brothers, but stopped when she noticed Darkness wasn't following. His eyes were on something in the thick foliage around the courtyard.

"Aren't you coming with us?" Theia asked, and tasted for scents. She didn't smell any, but wasn't the best when it came to scenting anything but prey.

"In a turn, I just need to look for something," Darkness assured her, and watched his kits enter the safety of the palace. He turned back to the grove of foliage, and crept forward. *I could have sworn I saw something. What was that smell?* There was street cat stench there, mixed with the smells of the city. And blood.

"Where are you, trespasser?" Darkness muttered under his breath. There was no sound, and no other sign of a cat being there. Darkness combed the grove but found nothing but the filthy scent. As he left the courtyard, several pairs of eyes watched him leave.

Suddenly, the vision changed to a different place of the palace, and the cats had changed also.

"This is getting out of hand!" Darkness hissed as he and Sunlight ran through the small grove of trees next to one of Alexandria Palace's many sloping, grassy hills. It was a beautiful place, stained with the hidden scent of filth.

"Don't get riled," Sunlight soothed, though she herself was also very

worried. She was normally very welcoming to rogues wanting to live in the palace, and she was ready to accept the cats, if they explained themselves.

"How do you expect me to be calm about this?" Darkness's fur on the ridge of his back visibly stood on end as he paced through the grove, nervous and on edge. "These rogues are dangerous, and I don't want them near our family..."

Before Sunlight could reply, three cats, stepped out from the shadows of a twisted oak. Two were toms, of a dirty gray color. The final feline was a she cat, small and pale furred, almost hairless. She held a meek expression as she came out last.

"You wanted us?" One of the gray toms, large and imposing, smiled. His green eyes bore into Darkness, taking in his size, and then his gaze shifted to Sunlight. His eyes grew wider. Darkness rose his chest, and stepped in front of Sunlight.

"You've been skulking around our territory." Darkness spat. "Why?"

Sunlight observed the gang of cats and shivered. The cat with the green eyes seemed hostile, overly so, but the other gray tom and the tiny she cat were noticeably quiet and submissive. She didn't like the looks of them, but she decided to try and keep everything peaceable.

"We will live here." The green-eyed tom explained, and snickered at their shocked expressions. "What? You can't expect us to know about these place and leave it unclaimed.."

"It is claimed," Darkness sneered.

"My brother's mate is with kits," He said. The she cat said nothing, and only looked at her paws, as if mentioning her was absurd. "She can't have them in the city.. Not with the amount of rogues living there now. Besides, we don't know how to help deliver them."

Sunlight couldn't help herself. She stepped forward, and gave the she cat a kind smile.

"Oh! This must be your first litter." As she spoke, she did notice the

obvious swollen belly. The she cat looked to the first tom who frowned, and she glanced toward her mate.

"Excuse my mate. Our customs and tongue is quite different," he replied before stepping to comfort her.

Darkness stopped the she cat with a sharp flick of the tail. He stalked towards the green-eyed tom, his icy blues narrowed with disgust. Sunlight tried to look apologetic, for the she cat's sake.

"Do you mean us harm?" Darkness hissed slowly, circling the group. "It's our territory. And I say, *get out.* We don't need your customs here."

"Darkness," Sunlight pleaded. "She can't kit on her own!" She turned to the tiny she cat. "What is your name?"

"Her name," the green-eyed tom interrupted, "Doesn't concern you. My name is Nico, and my brother is Marc. We come in peace, so you can lay off with all this hostility," he said calmly. Nico's frown turned to a polite smile, but this didn't quite reach his eyes. "All we care about are her kits."

Zodiacpelt woke with a shudder, and jumped to her paws. The dream had taken a toll, as usual. She controlled her breathing before she left the den. She had to get away and think about it.

When she entered the open camp, she was stopped by Shadowstar's voice. "Are you alright?"

"I'm fine. Just a dream."

"How have you been? I know training has taken a toll on the entire clan," Shadowstar said with a hopeful glance. She cared greatly about her former apprentice, and her well being.

"No! Training is great. I'm... I'm just worried about this rogue. That's all."

"Well don't. Everything is under control, and barely anyone leaves camp anymore," she pointed out. Zodiacpelt nodded before she met her eyes.

"Do you miss him?"

"No. He chose to leave," Shadowstar replied without much feeling.

"Excuse me, for asking, but did you ever love him?"

"No. I admire my clan and my warriors. But I haven't loved, since.."

"Since, Skystar died," Zodiacpelt answered quietly. Shadowstar did not reply at this, instead she gazed up at the stars.

"We are all different. Perhaps, not in our enemy's eyes, but in LightClan's eyes," she whispered before standing and heading toward her den. Zodiacpelt also rose to her feet. "Try to rest. If you need anything, let me know."

Zodiacpelt nodded and watched as her leader slipped back into her den. She sighed and did the same, finding comfort in her nest once more. She closed her crimson eyes, and the visions began again.

There was Sunlight, once more, but this time she was running down the palace hall, quite frantic.

"Darkness! Darkness!" She shouted. As she reached the end of the hall, she noticed her mate's large black pelt crouching over something. Sunlight began to sob as she real led what had occurred. "They took her. They took Theia!"

As she took his side, she noticed a pool of blood was growing around him. Darkness was crouching over Marc's dead body.

"He didn't do anything.."

"His brother did," Darkness replied coldly before the vision disappeared once again. Another one occurred, and this time, she was following a tom with a dark silver pelt as he crept over the rocks of StormClan.

A blue-gray she cat of many pelt patterns was gazing at the stars, oblivious, when the tom approached.

"Somehow I knew you'd come," she said, before the tom even

reached her. "Why else would I receive the dream?"

"It's nothing personal, Jaybird. I know you're a good, pure cat. That is why I have to kill you," Hawk replied quietly.

"When you toil with dark prophecies and magic, nothing good will arise.."

"I'm willing to do all I can to end this tyranny. The tyranny that killed my siblings," he declared as he pushed her into the stone. Jaybird grunted.

"You won't be the same. You'll become what you most fear," she threatened as Hawk slid his claws down her throat, and belly. She tried to project her pained screams, but it was useless. The howls of the wind blocked any sound.

"The Hawkwatch must protect. At all costs," he whispered as the blood seeped out of her wound. Snow began to fall, flurries than gradually bigger and more violent. "You are the eighth. The final, and just in time."

"Zodiacpelt! Wake up!"

Her screams had awoken the whole clan, and brought Shadowstar to the warrior's den in horror. The young she cat regained her breath before she continued. "Darkness is coming."

R.I.P JAYBIRD

As a blind rogue, she came to VoidClan hoping to heal the sick and spread the messages of LightClan. When VoidClan was absorbed into StormClan, she had no idea that she'd be serving the most tyrannical leader the clans have ever seen.

@X_RandomKat_X Thank you for Jaybird and the wisdom and joy she did give us. We wish her joy in LightClan. We will remember her.

Thanks for reading, folks.

CeRosette wrote some stuff.

Someone made a comment that this is Game of Thrones, for cats. Now that I've seen the show, I couldn't agree more.

Chapter 17

(Two moons later. You need to read the allegiances folks.)

Allegiances:

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her

right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Hunters:
Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost)

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Reachingbreeze

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Hollyfang

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black

patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Sagesmoke

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. Expecting Earthfoot's kits.

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 4 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 4 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 5 moons. (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 5 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 5 moons. (helloilovecats)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:

Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Zodiacpelt- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp)

Leopardfang- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterfur- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Expecting kits.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Expecting kits.

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 3 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 3 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 3 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 3 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 1 moon.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 1 moon.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. 1 moon.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Twistedfoot's kits.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Refugees-

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

(TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Expecting Falconcry's kits.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Expecting Bushwind's kits.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Olivepaw- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Bushwind

Ashpaw- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader) Mentor: Beestorm

Bonepaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (Mapleii) Mentor: Cloudfire

Echopaw- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules) Mentor: Swiftfawn

Tearpaw- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Mentor: Rivertail

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9) Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes.

(StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamespirit

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 4 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzlecloud- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Expecting Birchshiver's kits.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes.

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. Mentor: Oceanheart

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Sootfall

Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Birchshiver

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor:

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) 2 moons.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 4 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Stonekit- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. 5 moons. (Starshine28)

Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. 1 moon.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. 1 moon.

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye.

(TheIceWarrior)

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior)

The young queen sat on the cold mountain ledge, embracing the hint of sunlight that was provided on the winter's day. It has barely snowed in the past two moons of leaf-bare, but the weather was continually chilling.

"Blitzfire! Is everything alright? Why aren't you in camp?" Fairshade asked quietly, trotting toward his sister. She rode her head, and smiled at him.

"No! Everything is fine. I just needed some quiet, that's all. It's only a few days until the kits come, and I've been bombarded with many visitors.."

"I'm happy to hear that. I came here, when CaveClan first took refuge with MountainClan," he said with a small smile. He stepped onto the ledge, beside her, and gazed across the land. "I wondered if I could see StormClan from here, until I found out, it's too high. Then, I wondered if I could see LightClan from here.."

"Did you?"

"You wouldn't believe me, but, I've seen LightClan. In the sky, a moon ago, there was more than stars.. There were lights. Lights of all colors, imaginable. I kept seeing something in the lights. A figure.. I thought it was hallucination, when I saw mom," Fairshade admitted.

"But it wasn't..."

"I'm not a prophet.. I'm going to head back. The full moon was last night and Cinderstar wanted to conduct a ceremony," Fairshade said, stepping down from the ledge.

"I know. I'll meet you there soon," Blitzfire replied, her gaze still on the land. She was thinking of names when she heard many howls

from camp. She sighed and headed there also. *Perhaps Bushwind has an idea...*

"Stonekit, please step forward," Cinderstar's voice echoed across the refugee. The young gray tom stepped forward hastily, and shuddered at all the cats whose eyes watched him.

"Do you promise to serve CaveClan for as long as you shall live?"

"I do."

"From this day forward, you shall be known as Stonepaw. Your mentor will be Birchshiver. Now, we shall name our new warriors. Will Tearpaw, Ashpaw, Echopaw and Bonepaw step forward." The four siblings did as Cinderstar's requested and stepped forward.

"Do you promise to serve MountainClan for as long as you shall live?"

"I do," they all replied simultaneously.

"Then from this day forward, Tearpaw shall be known as Teardrop. Ashpaw shall be known as Ashfall. Echopaw shall be known as Echoheart. And Bonepaw will be known as Boneclaw," Cinderstar's announced, and the cats cheered their names in response. As the CaveClan leader stepped down, Bushwind took his place with a beaming smile.

"It gives me great honor to finally name another Medicine cat. Olivepaw, you have served well. Do you promise to uphold the medicine cat law, and care for all others before yourself?"

"I do."

"From this day forward, you shall be known as Olivenose. You were always great at detecting herbs, not by their appearance, but by their scent," Bushwind said proudly. He hoped Horsetail would also be proud.

"Olivenose, was the one who found and gave Shymask the catmint. And for that, CaveClan will always be in your debt," Cinderstar declared, bowing his head reverently. Olivenose appeared flustered

but bowed her her head in reply.

"Any cat would've done the same."

"Perhaps.. Attention! Before you enjoy the feast, I need to speak to your representatives in private," Cinderstar declared across the camp. At that point, Gem and Llewyn from RogueClan, stepped forward. They were shortly followed by Sleetpool, then Swiftfawn, and Hiddenwatcher.

They headed up the mountain, to somewhere more private. Swiftfawn, however, sighed and glanced back.

"Bushwind, would you join us? You are now, the eldest medicine cat here.."

"Of course!" He said, eagerly. Bushwind raced after the others, eager to catch up. As they reached a private place, Cinderstar sat and looked to the others.

He towered over the others, except for Hiddenwatcher, who matched his size the two RogueClan cats appeared the scrawniness. Gem was still small, even when carrying kits, to be born in half a moon. Llewyn had a slim and fit body, but he was made for stealth, not battle. Sleetpool, and Swiftfawn shared similar features and size.

"The time has come, my friends. It has been more than long enough. We will retake our home," Cinderstar declared with a decisive nature to his voice. The others say straighter at this, and we're now fully engaged.

"Our home? RogueClan has no home," Llewyn quickly interjected.

"He is right."

"I'm not about to cut a piece of land for you. And from what I've heard, you want none of that. I'm asking for something you have wanted since the beginning, Gem. *Justice*."

"Against, *Thunderstar,"* Sleetpool snapped sharply.

"Why? They all contributed. They are cowards who follow the slander of a tom, who is no true leader. So I ask you, why spare them?" Swiftfawn cornered, with little emotion crossing her face.

"They're my friends. My family," Sleetpool said in a low tone.

"They cast you out. I'm sorry, but you're loyalty to them, is far from what they deserve..."

"No! Let's make something clear. They are loyal, and in their loyalty they were blind. But do we persecute the blind elders?" Sleetpool questioned strongly. "I shall take their loyalty, with ease. No one loves Thunderstar, not anymore. If they do not see the truth, I will show them. StoneClan will not give up on cats."

"I was advising you not to place your faith in those cats!" Swiftfawn defended, hastily.

"They are controlled by fear, Sleetpool. You'll need more than your diplomatic skills, I'm afraid," Llewyn said.

"Then what do you purpose I do?"

"RogueClan's sources have led us to believe that many of the cats of the clan, are willing and waiting for the resistance," Llewyn replied.

"This sounds decent. We have the numbers, even without LakeClan. But, sparing bloodshed is the main goal. When shall we storm the territory and let him know we're back to stay?" Cinderstar asked.

"Thunderstar dies, *first*. The last moon was yesterday. Let us kill him before the moon is ended," Gem purposed eagerly. Her eyes were wide with need.

"No one can kill him. Spiderfang couldn't," Swiftfawn hissed. It was somewhat aimed at Cinderstar, but he was not hurt.

"After listening to the tales of this tyrannical leader, I believe the green eyed one is right. To end this. You must end, the source of it," Hiddenwatcher declared confidently.

"They may resent us for it.."

"Foxheart shared what that clan is like, currently. And I assure you, they will be glad and join us. The tiny left who are supporters can be exiled," Sleetpool explained throughly.

"We'll continue this discussion tomorrow. In the meantime, we should enjoy the feast," Cinderstar interrupted, eager to eat and let their minds think. The cats agreed and followed him back to camp.

"Sleetpool, could I speak with you," Gem asked in a hushed tone. Sleetpool nodded and they stopped walking. "It's about one of my RogueClan cats."

"What about him?"

"It seems as if he's been nothing but loyal, but.. He leaves and goes irregularly without warning.."

"Aren't RogueClan cats allowed to do what you refer to?"

"Yes, but."

"I'm not the best to address this problem. Toms go and please all the time," Sleetpool reminded her. Gem's eyes turned frantic.

"No! Please. I feel, as if..."

"What?"

"That were in danger," Gem whispered hastily. The look Gem gave the older she cat was enough.

"Where is he?"

"Out. He left this morning."

"Next time he's here. I'll speak to you with him," Sleetpool promised. "Now, let's get some prey. You're going to deliver soon."

"Please! I don't want to think of that!"

"Are you not excited?" Sleetpool asked with narrowed eyes. *Surely, she wants them*.

"It wasn't planned. And the father.."

"Twistedfoot. You mean," Sleetpool whispered, indifferently. Gem glared at her with wide and surprised eyes.

"It's not a secret. Though, I hope you have precautions taken. What clan will they be raised in?"

"RogueClan I assume.."

"That's no place for kits. Always traveling."

"Then they'll stay with my brother. I can't care for them as they need it. I have the slightest idea of how to be a mother," Gem scoffed at the thought. Sleetpool sighed.

"It'll come naturally."

Near MountainClan's former territory, a band of StormClan cats were training once again. Many were tired of the hard walk that they endured getting there, and were in no shape to battle.

"Just because leaf-bare is here, doesn't mean you can slack off! Bubblefur and Poisonberry are first," Thunderstar announced with an annoyed tone.

The two she cats took off. Bubblegum nipped at Poisonberry's ear and she immediately recoiled, before coming back with a stronger strike. Her claws snagged onto her right flank and began to tear the flesh. Bubblefur, feeling the possible injury, shot back and lost of focus.

"This is disappointing!" Thunderstar spat, as the she cat was pinned by Poisonberry. Bubblefur's friend and fellow warrior was smaller, and had somehow gained the advantage in the most inconvenient time. The warriors of StormClan were having their regular evaluations, and Bubblefur was impelled to impress her leader.

"But Thunderstar.."

"What say you? You're name, face and blood is filth. It was besmirched when your mother created that blood-forsaken clan full

of spineless rogues. Not to mention your father and your sibling's treason," he pointed out publicly. He spat once more on her face, then stalked away to pick on another. For some reason, their leader was more irritable than usual.

"I am sorry, I disappointed you. I'm afraid I cannot change the filthy blood of traitors that runs through my veins," she replied, as she rose to her paws. She felt heat rush to her face, in embarrassment. *I hate you. I hate you. I hate you*.

"You are right. Back to camp. The sight of you.. *Ugh*. You also, Irisstep. Hollyfang can fight better than you."

Irisstep appeared ticked off at the comment, considering he hadn't even fought yet. Nevertheless, the tom followed Bubblefur as they walked away from the training session and over the open territory.

Irisstep was particularly taken with the land, as everything in his life was never as open and as free as this. If everything went well, he wished to live there, for the rest of his moons with a she cat willing to put up with him.

"Why are you loyal to him?"

"Why is anyone loyal to their leader? Please, rogue. That's like asking my name," Bubblefur scoffed, focused on her destination. She had to ignore the scenario to move past it.

"You could choose any leader."

"I was born into this land. I was born into DarkClan. The few times my father visited my littermates and I, he said, 'loyalty is the most important thing.' I was the only one to follow this. I have paid my dues, prayed to LightClan, and been the most loyal warrior one could have. I would kill kits if my leader asked me too.."

"Why?"

"I follow strength. Thunderstar has more strength than you," she snapped, irritably. Thinking back to her mother, she believed what Thunderstar had said. She deserved it. And as Steelpaw did, only a few days ago, she would've killed her mother for leaving them, if

she had gotten the chance.

"He does. He has more physical and strategic strength than all. But, have you considered anything different than StormClan? A new system. A new way of living," Irisstep suggested calmly. Bubblefur turned to face him at this.

"Like what you lived in? Smelly rogues, pushing she cats around like prey. No thanks!"

"I mean, something else. Something free. Somewhere, where cats wouldn't need to prove themselves if they didn't want to. Where they could hunt, fight and run as they pleased.."

"You're ridiculous!"

"Am I?" Irisstep challenged. The yellow eyes she cat halted, and met him with a glare.

"What about killing?"

"What about it?"

"Where would I do that?"

"Discreetly," he replied quietly. "If you really have a fettish, I can easily appease that. I know cats who want other cats dead."

"The offer is generous. But I have my ways. I have my plans," she said in a quieter tone. She gazed across the moorlands before continuing.

"When you're done with them. Come join the Hawkwatch. You'll be valued. *Wanted.* And you'll answer to yourself, and only yourself."

She grinned and continued trotting on. Bubblefur had heard the rumors of this group, but didn't expect to be approached herself. She would keep quiet until it came to her advantage. In the meantime, she had to execute her own plans.

"Deathpaw, can you do me a favor?"

"What is it?"

"I need you to go to Cedarlily, and tell her, Airflight needs her by the lakeshore.."

"Okay. Why?" Deathpaw groaned, rising to his feet groggily.

"My business. You can't tell anyone!" Bubblefur hissed.

"Geez! Who am I going to tell?" Deathpaw replied quickly, not liking her sudden urgency. He walked across camp, peeked into the nursery and saw Cedarlily.

"Airflight wants you by the lakeshore," he replied simply before leaving and reclaiming his spot across camp. By the time he returned, Bubblefur was gone. *She cats...*

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting! Sorry for the late chapter.

Attention all artists:
If you would like to make cat art, I would be most grateful. I'd love to attack it to the chapters and add something more to display. And I'd love to display your talents.

Contact me if you're interested. I'll tell you the exact descriptions of the cats so you'll get it as accurate as possible. I prefer email, if that is possible.

Thanks!

Attention all pregnant cats:
It is your responsibility to tell me what is inside your cat's belly and what it will be. That means... Number of kits, their names, and appearances. All in private messages, or I name them or kill them.

I had to take care of Lightsplash's kits all by myself because Lightsplash and Ottertail aren't paying attention.

Take initiative. I'm not going to track you down, anymore.

Attention those who saw the movie, Jurassic World:

If you did not watch Jurassic Park (the first installment), you should be ashamed of yourself. Jurassic Park is a classic. It had better characters than a stupid lady who wore high heels, the whole time.

In Jurassic world, the Gyrospheres, holograms, and CGI turned me off immensely. Chris Pratt and his raptors was the only good installment in that.

If you work in a park like that, why wear high heels all day? **Seriously**? I think the producers did it for humor. T-Rxes run faster than you, and you're in high heels!

My apologies for getting off topic.

Chapter 18

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her

right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Hunters:
Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green

eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf) Mentor: Earthfoot

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost) Mentor: Thornfrost

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord) Mentor: Aspenfur

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Reachingbreeze

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Hollyfang

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Sagesmoke

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette)
Kits: Dreamkit, Aloekit and Kindlekit

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. Expecting Earthfoot's kits.

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 4 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 4 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Dreamkit- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. 5 moons. (SabrinaLeeGirl)

Aloekit- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. 5 moons. (DuskShimmer)

Kindlekit- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. 5 moons. (helloilovecats)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white

speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Zodiacpelt- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp)

Leopardfang- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterfur- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)
Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Expecting kits.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Expecting kits.

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 3 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 3 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 3 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 3 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 1 moon.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 1 moon.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. 1 moon.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Screaming. That was all Shadowstar could hear from her den, as Silverfeather pushed through the pains of labor. The she cat had been in labor for a long time now, and the clan was on the verge of insanity.

Burrclaw gnawed on an old fish bone anxiously as Hiddencreek and Rainpool sat together under the single willow tree. Shadowstar laid inside her den, so the two kept their volume low.

"I hope she's alright. That sounds awful," Rainpool whispered, knowing she would have to endure the same in a day or two. They couldn't give her a stick to chew on, because they could not be found on LakeClan territory. And the only bones they had left, were chewed on by Burrclaw, as he forfeited his meals to the queens.

"Don't worry."

"Hiddencreek.. Would you tell me anything?"

"Of course."

"Whose the father?" Rainpool asked with a hushed tone. Everyone suspected it was Silverfeather, as she and him were assigned mates by Bluewisp. But Hiddencreek and Rainpool were already mates, in somewhat secret. Most of the clan knew, just from signs alone.

"I don't know. I told you. She said she understood, and she had also been with someone.."

"Still. I hate doing this. If things don't change, her kits will think their your father.."

"I will be their father. And I will be our kit's father as well,"

Hiddencreek declared faithfully, as he buried his muzzle into he crook of her neck. She stiffened as Sweetbreeze exited from the nursery and began walking toward the tree.

However, she went straight past Hiddencreek and Rainpool and went to Shadowstar. The leader sat up, and tried to listen attentively to the she cat. The queens often reminded her of the kit she could've had, if fate had been kinder.

"It's two toms. Both healthy," Sweetbreeze said with a smile. Hiddencreek overheard and looked toward Rainpool. She smiled also.

It didn't quite change anything, but they were still grateful for their friend's healthy kitting. Rainpool glanced toward the empty pile of prey and sighed.

Their main source of food was fish, and the lake's edges were frozen over, and the creeks completely. And StormClan continued placing threats on them if they see them near the border of the provinces.

It was too tiring for anyone to make long expeditions, and to go north, they would have to cross the river, that flowed out of the lake. The ice layering the river was far too thin, and the water too cold. If things didn't change soon, the new born kits would not make it through leaf-bare.

"Shadowstar! May I speak with you?" Zodiacpelt requested as soon as Sweetbreeze left to check up on Silverfeather. Shadowstar nodded and Zodiacpelt rushed into the warmth of the den. "You and I, must leave tomorrow and travel to a place called, void's cliff.."

"What?"

"I received a vision, from a great cat. We must go to void's cliff by the half moon. It is in five days. It will take us awhile to get there," Zodiacpelt explained with a vey serious expression.

"We'll leave tomorrow morning. Did the vision say anything else?" Shadowstar replied, very engaged.

"If destiny plays out. The lake shall be replenished in fish, and we

shall thrive. But, there is a cost.."

"And that is?"

"You must name a new heir. That is all they request," Zodiacpelt replied without expression. Shadowstar narrowed her eyes.

"Do you trust this request? Why do they doubt your leadership?"

"I do not know. But, the only other cat who could lead better than yourself, is Leopardfang. I trust her with my life," Zodiacpelt said, before swallowing. Shadowstar noticed a strange stiffness in her former apprentice, and her crimson eyes were becoming duller.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes," Zodiacpelt said, completely set on her decision.

"As you wish," she said before leaving the den. "All cats of LakeClan gather before the tree!"

Many cats came into the camp's clearing. Dragonstone, Mistyshine and Ottertail had returned from a hunt, but with no prey. The sight of this, assured Shadowstar fully of her decision.

"We have received word from the stars. There will be prey, soon. Zodiacpelt and I must travel to a place called void's rock. But, with this comes of consequence. The stars ask for another heir, and Zodiacpelt has agreed fully to this. The new heir to LakeClan is Leopardfang. May she guide us in wisdom and spirit."

The clan spoke in name once, but everyone was taken by surprise. Shadowstar loved both she cats as daughters, raised in LakeClan as refugees. But Zodiacpelt, was special.

After the clan dismissed once more, and cats began offering their congratulations to Leopardfang. As Zodiacpelt did this, her friend shook her head in confusion.

"I wanted you as leader. You know that," Leopardfang insisted with narrowed eyes.

"It's not like that. I must go with Shadowstar tomorrow. But.. *Know*.. That I couldn't have asked for a better friend," Zodiacpelt said, on the verge of tears. Leopardfang noticed this and grew worried.

"Are you alright?"

"Fine. Until we see again.."

"Of course. *My subject*.." Leopardfang grinned, before they both laughed.

The next day, at StormClan territory, they also held a ceremony.

"Aloepaw! Dreampaw! And Kindlepaw shall be your new names. Aloepaw's mentor shall be Moltenstream. Dreampaw's mentor shall be Moonclaw," Sprucestrike announced over the camp. Thunderstar had reluctantly given him permission to name the litter apprentices, several days after their 5th moon. "Thank you all for taking the time out of your morning to be here. You may continue your duties now.."

Bubblefur laughed on the sidelines. Sprucestrike was a fierce warrior, turned into a shy substitute. She was disappointed in everyone around her, but relieved that she could pursue her final task. She spotted Airflight across camp, speaking with Blackpaw and Kindlepaw.

"We're happy to finally, have another runner," she heard Airflight remark before she interrupted.

"May I speak to you Airflight?" She requested quite abruptly. Airflight, was not one to quarrel with warriors, so nodded and turned to Blackpaw.

"Take Kindlepaw, and some of the other apprentices to get accustomed to the territory," Airflight said. Blackpaw gave a curt nod and set off with Kindlepaw to set up the patrol.

"Airflight.."

"It's not a good time, Bubblefur. It's been rough with Cedarlily gone.."

"Why?"

"What!"

"You only were with her because Bluewisp arranged it.."

"I loved her!" Airflight yelled, a bit furious at Bubblefur's tone.

"You don't need to lie to yourself anymore! We were always meant to be together!" Bubblefur declared with wide eyes. Airflight tilted his head and stumbled back.

"You... Did you.. Kill her?"

"She was stoping us from being together.. What was I supposed to do?" Bubblefur asked. Their conversation had become audible, luckily the younger cats had left camp.

Irisstep, Hollyfang and Wishheart were sharing tongues nearby, when they overheard this. Irisstep exchanged a small glance with Hollyfang before standing.

"Bubblefur, you need to calm down. And leave Airflight alone," Irisstep advised strongly. But, the she cat was beyond controlling.

"You killed my mate! My kits.."

"I'm your mate!" Bubblefur insisted with longing eyes. Hollyfang and Irisstep were on her flanks now, ready to stop her.

"I hate you!" As he said this, Airflight stepped away but it was too late. She surged forward, and pinned him, as if violence would get the point across. Her claws sunk into flank and he hissed in pain. Hollyfang rammed into Bubblefur and together, Irisstep and her detached her from Airflight who crawled away in pain.

"LET ME GO!"

"Get out!" Sprucestrike echoed, noticing this commotion. He didn't hear the conversation, but knew the she cat needed time alone. Bubblefur muttered a few curses before she ran out of camp.

Meanwhile, Blackpaw and apprentices had just began their patrol, when the scents in the air changed. A gray figure appeared in the distance. A tall shadow of a cat.

"Stop!" Blackpaw shouted. Her commanding tone took the younger apprentice by surprise. She was leading a patrol with Stormpaw, Russetpaw Ebonypaw, and Kindlepaw. This was her first task training other apprentices.

"What?" Russetpaw snapped, a bit irritable, in the early morning.

"It looks like a trespasser," Ebonypaw added on.

"That doesn't mean we approach it. You aren't warriors, yet!"

"We're better warriors than you.."

"No, Russetpaw. She's right," Stormpaw said immediately. His brother shifted, silently as they looked at the figure. The tall gray Tom, was hiding in the shadows of the trees that border the lake. Blackpaw instantly recognized the blue eyes.

"Go back to camp, and don't speak of this. I don't think he means any trouble," Blackpaw said adamantly. Stormpaw headed back without question, while Russetpaw eyed her cautiously. Thunderstar had personally warned him and his siblings about her.

Ebonypaw followed Stormpaw, and Russetpaw did the same shortly. He muttered to them, "I hope she ends up slaughtered like the rest of them.."

Blackpaw however, was less concerned of her life, and more concerned of the gray tom. As she trotted toward him, he turned and led her into the lost forest, the only trees on the StormClan province. It was dark, and private. Cats never went into the forest alone, for the shear number of fox scents.

She hadn't spoken to Hawk since they were taking Shadowstar back to StormClan. It had been nearly two moons, but LakeClan kept silent about the matter, and Lightningstrike and Dawnpaw had disappeared.

"Hawk!" Blackpaw called out, losing sight of him.

"You're taller.. Leaner," his voice remarked from behind her. She whipped her around and faced him. He had a small smirk, but she did not find this amusing at all.

"What happened? Where have you been?"

"I'm not obligated to be here. I owe you nothing," Hawk scoffed. Blackpaw shifted on her paws and rolled her eyes. "Fine, fine. Your patrols have increased. I don't know why.."

"Cedarlily was killed. The clan thinks it was a rogue," she said.

"Ah."

"What happened to Shadowstar? What'd you do? Why were you there?" Blackpaw asked immediately. She had been anticipating the long conversation for two moons now, but it wasn't going as she planned.

"Helping you both. Shadowstar would've died if Thunderstar discovered she was bearing kits, and you would've had to kill her. It'd be amusing to him. But we couldn't let that happen.."

"She couldn't of bore kits.. LakeClan leaders aren't allowed to.. Besides, Cinderstar had a mate. I've traveled to CaveClan before. I know.."

"Does Thunderstar keep track of all the mates in the forest? I doubt anyone could track them all.. LakeClan has too many kits coming. They're going to starve.."

"How did you... Who told you this.."

"Listen, Blackpaw. You followed my orders with CaveClan, correct? I told you not to go there," Hawk asked, his thoughts already in place.

"Of course.. Airflight, nor I have been there in moons.."

"CaveClan was destroyed in a Blackcough epidemic.. Any survivors

took their place with the MountainClan survivors. Thunderstar knew this."

"Oh LightClan.."

"LakeClan is facing their disaster now. Soon, they will fall to starvation, if not already. One of my new friends, Maplewood, knew this and joined RogueClan before it escalated," Hawk explained throughly. Blackpaw shook her head in confusion.

"I don't need your.. Warrior lessons anymore. My friends helped me with that. So.. Why am I here?"

"StormClan will fall, before LakeClan does. At the half moon, my friends shall drive Thunderstar out of leadership. You skip this revolution, and meet me where light and darkness met. They call it, void's cliff. You are my friend, right?" Hawk asked, sitting tall. His eyes narrowed to meet her beady eyes. She had never quite considered him a friend. Her friends were a small and confined list. *Steelstrike. Snakefoot. Batpaw. Airflight. My brothers. Winterpaw*..

"Sure. I'm not apart of these politics, though," she sighed.

"You are. Your friend? What have they taught you?" Hawk questioned turning his head. Blackpaw answered by leaping forward. Hawk foresaw this and whipped his paw around, catching her off guard. Pain stung her cheek, and she sat low hissing.

"Not much," Hawk said, before she surprised him, by surging forward. She could never defeat Hawk, but considering that she could surprise him, was not to forget. "Enough. It's good enough. One more thing."

"What?" She said, turning to face the yelling in the distance. A hard thud came against her head and she dropped to the ground, as blood dribbled down her eye.

For those who enjoy this book and Game of thrones:
http://pinterest.com/pin/450008187742996437/

R.I.P CEDARLILY

This she cat was a simple one. She wanted nothing more to settle down with her mate and kits, and watch them grow up and serve her clan.

Unfortunately, there are many sick and evil cats that get in the way of dreams. Cedarlily was slaughter that day, on the lakeshore, along with her unborn kits.

thankyou_not We shall remember this tragic and unfortunate death.

Chapter 19

Allegiances:
(Shortened.)
Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Kits: Vulture (she cat) and Hood (tom)

Vulture- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray.

Hood- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Rogues and Refugees-

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. Former medicine cat. (CeRosette)

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

(TuftyKat)

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Expecting Falconcry's kits.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Expecting Bushwind's kits.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules) A medicine cat.

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Boneclaw- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Expecting Suntail's kits.

Tawnypaw- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Tallcloud

Eaglepaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9) Mentor: Suntail

Rustpaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes.

(StarWarsHaloFanFic) Mentor: Flamespirit

Robinpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96) Mentor: Blitzfire

Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamespirit

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 4 moons.

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer)

Drizzlecloud- a light grey Tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.
(LunaPup365)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Kit: Icekit (Tom)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes.

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Cloudflight

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetpool

Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Sootfall

Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Birchshiver

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor: Shimmerpool

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) Kits: Stonekit

Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) 2 moons.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 4 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (Starshine28) Mentor: Birchshiver

Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 1 moon.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 1 moon.

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnpaw- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior)

"Maybe I should stay out.."

"Bush.. Why?"

"I may be a bad luck charm," Bushwind replied anxiously. Blitzfire has gone into labor. Olivenose and Blazingflame were taking care of it, so far, but he was contemplating.

"Do it!"

"Alright! Alright," he said preparing to charge in, when he stopped and whimpered. Tallcloud frowned at him. Bushwind her Blitzfire cry out in pain, and his eyes narrowed in focus.

"I can do this!" He told himself. When he had finally found the courage. Blazingflame and Olivenose slipped out.

"All done!" Olivenose said with a smile. Bushwind flinched, then entered the den without a doubt. There lay, Blitzfire, as beautiful as ever, with three bundles suckling from her belly.

Her eyes caught him and she smiled widely in happiness. "Two she cats, and a tom."

He was awed at the beauty of the three bundles. All three had light fluffy fur. The tom had was a golden tabby, who was particularly fluffy. One she cat had pale golden fur with orange tipped ears, toes, and patches. And the last she cat looked just like her mother.

"Can we name them?"

"Of course! I've been waiting nearly three moons, haven't I?" Blitzfire exclaimed in a hushed tone, to not scare the kits.

"My mom's name was happy before she came to the clans. So I think we should name the tom Happykit," he smiled. She laughed almost immediately, but nodded her head in agreement.

"Oh Bushwind.. Well. The she cat with orange tipped ears, looks just like my nether did as a kit. I think it's only fitting we name her Flintkit. And the final one.. Hope. Hope for the clans."

"Oh Blitzfire... I love you."

"And I love you."

Later in the day, many of the cats peered in, to catch a glimpse at the new litter. Everyone was hoping and praying their litter would be healthy, and they received more.

Gem was one of the first to congratulate her brother, leaving her new born kits for a short time.

"Bushwind, I'm very happy for you," she admitted, thinking of his beautiful kits and mate. He was a great medicine cat and he would serve his clan and family well. "I'm sorry, I wasn't there for you. Those moons ago.."

"You're here now! I can't wait for our kits to play! Vulture and Hood will probably beat them easily, being from rogue blood and all.."

"Hey!"

"I'm kidding! They're adorable," Bushwind insisted with a laugh. She sighed and glanced across camp to Sleetpool and Twistedfoot, conversing. "Don't worry. He'll come to see them. He's been busy. That's all."

Gem smiled at him, then headed back to her two kits. She entered their den and the two bundles, rose their heads at her entrance.

"Hi mommy!" Vulture exclaimed with perked ears. She was a hyper one.

"Can you tell us a story? I don't want to nap anymore," Hood grumbled, as he sat.

"What type of story?"

"I heard Cinderstar say LightClan the other day. Tell us about that," Vulture decided. She usually took the initiative for her brother when it came to decisions.

"LightClan is where cats go, when they leave... *Here*. It's a happy place full of cats and light. And lots of prey.."

"I like milk," Hood declared, randomly.

"Well, they have lakes of milk for kits," Gem improvised.

"It sounds fun! Can we visit one day?" Vulture asked with a hopeful smile.

"One day. After you're an elder," she said before licking them both. They both clang to her fur.

"I love you," Vulture squeaked.

"I love you too, mommy. Will you tell us more stories?"

"You know.. Willowbreeze has great stories.."

"No. Let's just cuddle. It's cold," Vulture decided. Before Gem could lay down with them, she saw someone at the entrance to the den. She rose and walked toward the figure before realizing, who it was.

"Gem.. I.."

"I'm sorry. Really sorry. I was wrong to run away and I can understand if you don't want to see me. But, the kits.."

"No. I want to see my family. You are my family now Gem. And I know you meant what you said, back at the cave. And I meant what I said. There's no place I'd rather be, than with you," Twistedfoot explained. Gem trembled at his words. *Does he mean it? "*I'll go wherever you wish to raise them. Even if it means.. *RogueClan*."

"Do you want to meet them?" Gem asked with a smile. He nodded and she turned to faced the kit's confused faces.

"Kits. This is your father, Twistedfoot. That is Vulture and that is Hood."

"Why do you limp?"

"Do all father's limp?"

"I was born like this. Father's don't limp," he replied a bit awkwardly. Gem laughed to herself. Vulture glanced up with wide eyes, and gave them such suspense.

"Do father's tell stories?"

"Lots."

"Yay!" Vulture and Hood exclaimed as they ran around Twistedfoot with their tiny legs. Gem sat back and listened as Twistedfoot began to tell them the story of the clans and how the original clans began.

"There were four. ThunderClan, WindClan, RiverClan and ShadowClan. After time, more rogues heard of this and started their own clans far away. This continued for thousands of moons," Twistedfoot explained. By the time he got to the warrior code, the two kits were getting drowsy and laid down to sleep. "Their great."

"I know. I've been meaning to speak to you. Preparing everyone for siege is important though," Gem said with understanding. It wasn't as simple when RogueClan would run through StormClan territory.

"I have time for this."

"I want to raise them in a clan. RogueClan isn't a place for kits and my place in RogueClan, was only temporary until Thunderstar was defeated. Now, he will be," she said looking into his eyes.

"You don't have to leave RogueClan.."

"I want to. I never thought I'd be good at being at mother. Llewyn will takeover and they'll be fine if they don't rejoin clans. You'll stay with us, won't you?" Gem asked, in a sudden chance of topic.

"Of course. I love you."

"I love you too," she replied, burying her muzzle in his fur. They fell asleep, pelt's touching and next to their kits.

Engulfed in her dreams, Gem witnessed the continuation of the visions she had been reviewing for moons now.

The city was an unfamiliar and scary place for Drogo as he tried to help track Nico's filthy scent. The young tom had never been in a place so constricted or foul, yet Darkness ran through the alleyways and ducked aggressive twoleg feet as if he had lived in the city for all of his life.

After questioning many cats, they learned that Nico was living near the docks, with Marc's mate and several other she cats. One rogue had helpfully added that he had seen a small black she cat with the group.

"What are we going to do when we find him?" Trigon had asked afterwards. "Sunlight wouldn't want us to hurt anyone.."

"This isn't her concern!" Darkness had answered darkly, glowering at his son. "She doesn't know how to deal with these things. She will be grateful to see her daughter again."

Now, Trigon lagged behind, looking uncertain, but Darkness had paid him no mind, and Drogo was too focused on finding his sister to worry about how his brother was feeling. It was unimportant; they had a job to do.

The trio could scent the docks easily, because of the overpowering aroma of fish, but at the same time had more difficulty pinpointing Nico's hideaway.

"It reeks here," Trigon had said loudly, though to nobody in particular. "It'll be harder to find Theia if we can't smell her."

"What are you talking about?" Drogo huffed, our of breath after running all day. "The dockyard isn't that big, we'll find her!"

Darkness hadn't seemed winded at all when they stopped inside of a smelly crate to rest, but it was obvious that the younger cats were going to collapse from exhaustion. Trigon licked his pelt fervently,

at an attempt to get rid of the oily smell of fish.

From the left side of their crate, a white-furred she cat appeared, walking daintily towards the edge of their sight. Darkness inhaled her scent and hissed.

"She smells like him," Darkness growled, and bolted out of the crate. He caught the she cat by surprise, and his claws found their way easily to the scruff of her neck. Darkness dragged her to the ground.

The she cat shook with fear, but made no attempt to escape.

"Where is Nico?" Darkness growled and shook her, violently. She trembled but kept her mouth shut. Drogo slashed his tail around angrily and circled the pair. Trigon stood pack and watched, completely silent.

"You can tell us," Darkness said slowly. "Or you can die for that piece of dung. It's your choice."

"Darkness," Trigon started to speak, but Darkness silenced him with a glare. The she cat looked at the toms, and seemed to weigh them all up in her head. She seemed to make a decision.

"I will not tell you where my mate is," She said in a heavy accent. "I will lead you to him."

Drogo looked suspicious. "What if you just run?"

The she cat looked at the claws at her throat and laughed. "You will kill me."

Darkness removed his claws. "Fine, lead the way, but no tricks."

The she cat nodded, and walked down the pier, followed closely by Darkness and Drogo. Trigon, distracted by his thoughts, followed more slowly.

In almost no time at all, they were at the outskirts of Nico's territory. Crates and fishing nets made a makeshift wall around what looked to Darkness like a wrecked fishing boat. The boat's small mast kept the nets raised high above their heads, and served

as a ceiling for whomever lived inside.

The she cat ducked under a hole in a crate and disappeared from view. They heard voices.

"Where were you, Diana?" A tom's harsh voice asked from inside the nest. "I didn't say you could leave."

"I was getting some fresh air," the she cat replied boldly, and then, there was a scuffling sound. The she cat cried out.

"You won't talk to me like that. You know how you are to act, *mate*," The tom snapped. "Get out of my sight."

"Leave her alone!" A familiar voice begged.

"Theia!" Drogo yowled, and ran through the hole.

"Drogo, no!" Darkness ran after him. Startled, Trigon made to go after them, but stumbled into a tiny, red-furred she cat. "Ow!"

The red cat stopped, and ran away from him. She was carrying a small kit. They locked eyes for a second, but then the she cat turned and ran away, weaving through mesh and debris until Trigon could no longer see her. He turned and ran through the hole in the crate.

The place was chaos. Diana, the she cat, lay in a corner, blood spurting from her side, shielding three kits. A calico tom lay nearby, throat slit open and body unmoving.

Drogo wrestled viciously with another tom, his claws and teeth biting and slashing whatever he could get a hold of. Trigon made to help, but was pounced on by a rail-thin, long-furred tomcat.

The cat had Trigon by surprise, so easily took him to the ground, but Trigon used his hind legs to scratch at the tom's belly. The cat clawed at his face, and made a large cut across his eye, but not before Trigon had scratched deep into his stomach.

He pushed the limp cat off of himself and tried to blink the blood out of his burning eye, but to no avail. He looked to Drogo, but saw that he had taken down the calico cat with a bite to the throat. He

was unscathed save for a few scratches on his back.

"What happened to your eye?" Drogo asked worriedly.

"Nothing," Trigon turned. "Theia!"

Theia was caught in the fight between Darkness and Nico. Every time she tried to run towards her brothers, Nico would pull her in front of him like a shield. Darkness would pull back his swipes, but was clearly getting frustrated.

"Coward!" Darkness growled. "Face me, or are you too weak?"

Nico bared his teeth but said nothing. He simply pushed Theia forward with a powerful thrust, and fell onto rotten wood. Nico jumped up through a hole in the net, and easily escaped.

"No!" Darkness hissed, and ran outside the nest to catch him.

"Father, wait!" Drogo called, panicking. "What about Theia?"

Theia had not gotten up after Nico had pushed her to the ground. Her body was weak and thin, and there was a deep cut in her side. Trigon ran to her side.

"Who cut her?!" Drogo demanded, turning to the white she cat, who was still laying in the corner. She frowned.

"I did not see.."

"No!" Drogo despaired. "You must have! You had to see!"

"Brother," Trigon's voice pulled him out of his immediate anger. "Theia's not moving."

Drogo froze. Slowly, he walked over, his face disbelieving. "What?"

"I think she's dying," Trigon whispered, poking at Theia with the tip of his nose.

"She's dead?" The she cat asked loudly.

"Shut up!" Drogo snapped, and buried his face in Theia's fur. She

was barely breathing.

"We need to get her back to Sunlight." Trigon insisted.

"But...what about Darkness?" Drogo asked, looking up at his brother.

"We can't wait for him. We have to find our way ourselves." Trigon looked at the white she cat. "Can you walk?"

The she cat shook her head, and looked at the kits behind her. "No, but that doesn't matter. You need to take the kits with you."

"We can't carry two kits and our sister." Trigon said.

"You'll want to. These kits are hers."

"We'll take one. The smaller tom," Trigon replied.

"What?" Trigon stared at the kits. There were two toms, one big and one tiny, with black fur and unmistakeable blue eyes. The fighting had woken them up, and they were now trying to climb over Diana to investigate. "How old are they?"

Diana shrugged. "They were newborns when I arrived here with my mate a moons ago. Theia called them Set and Osiris, after the twoleg's gods."

"Trigon, we don't have much time," Drogo strained, trying to prop up Theia. Their sister was somewhat conscious, and moving feebly. Drogo's eyes set upon the kits. "We can't-,"

"They're Theia's!" Trigon interrupted. We can't leave them!"

Diana coughed, and Trigon watched a drop of blood dribble out of her nose.

"Juno's going to come back," Diana coughed again. "She can care for one of them. The biggest."

Trigon nodded, and looked at the tiny kit. "I'll take him."

"Trigon, you can't think that we'll take that monster's kit with us!" Drogo said angrily. Theia's eyes flickered open once, and she moaned in protest, but Drogo ignored her. He took a step towards Diana and the kits.

"They're Theia's kits as well!" Trigon argued. "They're as much our blood as they are hers'." He picked the tiny kit up in his mouth as carefully as possible. The kit wiggled.

"That one's Osiris," Diana said feebly.

"Who are you?" Osiris squeaked, and wiggled back and forth. "What's wrong with mommy?"

"Dank' ooh'," Trigon bowed his head to Diana, and ran to help Drogo lead Theia to the palace.

When it was dark in the night, Sunlight saw them return. They were all a bloody mess, but her heart soared when she saw them carrying her daughter.

"Theia!" Sunlight cried. Ignoring all else she ran to them, hoping for the best.

Trigon and Drogo lay Theia down in a patch of grass, and Sunlight licked her daughter profusely, coaxing her to wake up.

"I was so worried!" Sunlight said shakily. "I woke up and you had all gone, and I didn't know where you went or if you were okay...," she paused. "Where is Darkness?"

Drogo looked at his paws, but Trigon put the kit in his mouth on the ground and said, "Dad went after Nico; we haven't seen him since."

Sunlight sat silently, until she noticed the little, black kit. "Who is this?" She purred gently.

The little tom stared up at her. "I'm Osiris!" He said shyly. "Will my mommy be okay?"

"She might be if we take her inside," Sunlight locked the kit

between the eyes and got right to work. "There are some medicinal herbs in the kitchens. If you two can get her to a safer place, I'll go find some. Quay!" She called to a she cat playing with kits nearby. "Can you please watch Osiris?"

The big cats ran away from Osiris, who watched with confusion. The day had been a whirlwind for him. First he had woken up against a wall with his brother, and then Diana had made him go away from the nest. He didn't understand.

"You're Osiris?" The she cat called Quay had come over to him, flocked by five kits his age.

Osiris nodded numbly, and tilted his head to the side. "When will my brother be here? We've never been away from each other."

"Soon, perhaps. You should play while you wait for him!" Quay rambled, not sure of what to do.

"Do you want to see a stick we found?" One of the kits, a large she cat, asked. "It's really fun to chew on!"

Osiris wanted to wait for his mom and brother, but he nodded anyway. "Okay! That sounds like fun."

Meanwhile, Theia had been taken to a bedchamber, and placed on a blanket that Had been pulled into the floor. Sunlight had given her herbs, and was now trying to treat the gash in her side.

"This is a serious wound," Sunlight muttered. She could see Theia's ribs through the cut, and the seriousness of the wound had put Theia into shock.

Suddenly, Theia's eyes opened. They looked glassy and out of focus.

"Where am I?" Theia breathed. "Where's Nico?"

"You're safe, at home," Sunlight soothed, and tried to use a cobweb to staunch the bleeding in her side.

"Home? No!" Theia panicked. She tried to get up, but Drogo, who was sitting nearby, held her down. "I have to go back! The kits can't

be alone with him!"

"Kits?" Sunlight put an emphasis on the plural, and gave Drogo a questioning look. He shrugged. "The kits are fine."

Theia relaxed after that, but still she looked worried. "How did I get here? How did I...I...," her eyelids drooped, and she fell silent.

The dream was engulfed in darkness, and Gem heard a single voice come from it. "Go to void's cliff.."

"Dad..."

"You must."

Thank guys! Don't forget to vote and comment. Wattpad made it harder recently with the new update on the app.

Chapter 20

(Warning: this chapter contains extreme "feels", gore, and awesomeness. Please comment frequently throughout the chapter. The bar is below for most.)

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

Empire of StormClan-
The first rank:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow. (CeRosette)

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. (Irishcah)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Hunters:
Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.
(thankyou_not)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Apprentices:
Tangledpaw- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathpaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost)

Sharppaw- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackpaw- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Mentor: Airflight

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Reachingbreeze

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Hollyfang

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Sagesmoke

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Tempestshadow

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonclaw

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Moltenstream

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. Expecting Earthfoot's kits.

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 4 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 4 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

The third rank:
Province of LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt. (Puh-leaze)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)
Apprentice:
Toadpaw- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Zodiacpelt- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. (MysteryHarp)

Leopardfang- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a

white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterfur- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits:

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Kits:

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 3 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 3 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 3 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 3 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 1 moon.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes.

(Lilacfur) 1 moon.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 1 moon.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

Cats outside of empire:

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Kits: Vulture (she cat) and Hood (tom)

Vulture- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray.

Hood- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

"Thunderstar.."

"Yes.." The large tom turned to face Sprucestrike who stood at his den's entrance.

"Bubblefur's body was found at the bottom of the cliff.." *They shall fling themselves into the stone. "*Sad excuse for a warrior."

"Why are you so cruel?" Sprucestrike snapped, inside and out. Without knowing what any other cat was planning, he was finished.

"What did you say?"

"You heard me."

"When you were in alone, who stood by you? Who had faith in you despite your utter lack of power or gain? You miserable piece of fox dung," Thunderstar hissed through his teeth and Sprucestrike backed into camp's center. It was the evening of the full moon, and all of StormClan was present.

"Ever since she died.. You've been mad. More than mad. You're a murderer.."

"You're a murderer too, Sprucestrike. Stormchaser and Jaggedclaw.. For a she cat," Thunderstar declared. From across camp, Ivysong heard these unlikely words and glared at Sprucestrike.

"Go to that pathetic grave.. Get out," Sprucestrike muttered, completely sure of himself at that moment.

Thunderstar had no words to reply, instead his charged forward and took Sprucestrike head on. Sprucestrike's claws latched onto his belly and him propelled him back. They flipped and fell to the stone ground, where Sprucestrike made his move. He slashed his paws across Thunderstar's muzzle and he tried to do the same, but Sprucestrike dodged in time and rammed into his flank.

"Stop!" A voice finally said. She glanced over to her accomplices and they all nodded in agreement. It was time. Thunderstar only stopped fighting Sprucestrike to face the brave on who spoke. His eyes whipped around to see a single tom at their entrance.

His eyes were electric blue, and his pelt was thick and sliver, in the night.

"*You..*"

"Indeed, Thunderstar," Hawk replied glancing around the camp. He saw the small figure of Blackpaw, peering out from the apprentice's den. Go now. He said with his glare. Blackpaw understood this and slipped out of camp in the meantime.

As Hawk walked into the center of camp, Sagesmoke took her place beside him and brushed her muzzle against his. Irisstep, Hollyfang, Wishheart and the supporters they had one, gathered behind him. Thunderstar was more than stunned at this, but only gritted his teeth.

The only ones who weren't apart of this were Aspenfur, Bluewisp, Earthfoot, Tigerstorm, Crimsonclaw, Vicefang and the young apprentices who were oblivious. Their side out numbered Thunderstar by many, and he knew there was no way to beat a force that size.

"Your leadership, and the leadership of so many of the tyrannical has lead many into death. There is no pride in serving a ruthless emperor. There is *no honor*. Cats of StormClan, join the free of the Hawkwatch, and together, we shall answer to no one, but ourselves," Hawk proclaimed gallantly. Sprucestrike got to his paws and crossed to their side. Aspenfur and Bluewisp stayed in the shadows of the nursery while Earthfoot became stiff.

"Those who oppose. Shall face exile or death," Hawk declared, particularly glaring at Tigerstorm, heavy with the burden of kits. At this, she crossed to their side. Earthfoot and Vicefang too, and Thunderstar was left alone with Crimsonclaw at his side. His adopted daughter stared at her claws, not particularly interested in anything that occurred.

"For your crimes Thunderstar, we sentence you to death.."

"I can only sentence myself to death," he spat before leaping onto the jagged rock and out of camp. Crimsonclaw sat behind, glaring at the opposing.

She glanced to where Thunderstar retreated, and sighed. She couldn't make the jump, so she'd have to fight her way through. *Or not.* She shrugged. Hawk had no particular interest in her and soon left, following Thunderstar.

Crimsonclaw was left to deal with her clan.

As Hawk followed Thunderstar toward void's cliff, Shadowstar and Zodiacpelt stared at the stars. They had been there was a day now, and there was no sign that Zodiacpelt could interpret.

She didn't receive word, until a small black she cat arrived. Her blue eyes met Zodiacpelt, and she stiffened.

"Blackpaw, what're you doing here?" Shadowstar asked calmly. Zodiacpelt stepped toward Blackpaw and gazed deeply into her eyes.

"I could ask you the same-"

"Blackpaw is the one. The legacy of storm.. The.."

"What?"

"Blackpaw, listen to me. You need to leave. Leave while you still can," Zodiacpelt begged, with longing eyes. The intensity scared her. She was on the verge of tears and neither knew what she meant.

"Hello?" Another voice said. The three turned their heads to face a cream she cat, with wide green eyes.

"Gem... You're Gem.."

"Shadowstar. You must leave," Zodiacpelt pleaded. She stood however and glanced at each one.

"What is the meaning of this?"

"I could say the same to you," a deeper voice said. This was a voice they all recognized and immediately turned to meet its face. A deep hole the the phantom of an eye met them, and one yellow eyes.

"You set this up.. You're plotting to kill us," Shadowstar muttered, glaring at Blackpaw and Gem.

"No.. No," Blackpaw insisted before Thunderstar glared at them and snickered.

"I planned to end my life tonight. Now, I get the pleasure of ending yours," Thunderstar said, staring at Gem with hungry eyes. She stepped back and shook her head. Thunderstar made no movement.

"I'm done with this.. I told you Hawk. I wanted no part in this!" Gem said, facing the tom who came up behind Thunderstar.

"All of you must listen, before the destiny plays out," Hawk proclaimed as he stepped beside them. Six cats stood on void's cliff, all ears perked, and claws unsheathed.

"This shall be interesting," Thunderstar muttered as he sat promptly. Compared to every other cat, he towered over them.

"All of you, except red eyes and Blackpaw, over there. Are guilty.. We shall begin with Thunderstar's trial. You've killed several cats, but among your worst crime, you made the kindest mates abandon their litters, to follow you..."

"What?"

"I am the son of Aspenfur and Bluewisp who abandoned their litter, for the sake of *your tyranny,*" Hawk sneered, words filled with hate.

"Ah! That explains a lot."

"So I killed those miserable warriors. Those poor innocent cats, for your demise.. And now. Everything is falling into place!" He laughed maliciously.

"You're a monster. Both of you," Gem snapped.

"Careful Gem. We wouldn't want the kits to end up like Vulturestar," Hawk advised. This struck something with Gem, and she dug her claws into the dirt. She hissed and leaped toward Hawk.

Blackpaw did the only rational thing she could think of. She rammed the she cat off course, to protect Hawk.

Gem stumbled back and rolled off to the end of the cliff, where her bottom side fell off, and her claws were the only thing holding her.

"I'm so sorry," Blackpaw gasped, trying to help, but when she stepped toward Gem, the cliff's edge and her weight couldn't hold. The ground under Gem's claws shifted and she lost her grip, falling into the abyss below.

Blackpaw screamed and fell back as the rock fell with Gem. *It's all my fault.*

"You've done it, Blackpaw," Hawk murmured in disbelief. "I didn't think it would happen.."

"What!"

"He's been using you," Zodiacpelt spat, viscously. "It's an ancient sacrifice. 9 lives. 8 innocent. 1 guilty. The innocent killed by a killer.. The guilty killed by an innocent."

"You mean.."

"Shadowstar really saved me time. Her life and her kit's life counted for two. I admit, I hated to do this. But my master commanded it, and promised the evil would end after Thunderstar's death. Rosejay was the most difficult. All she wanted was to say goodbye before she left. I am sorry to the eight. The ninth, was all you, Blackpaw."

"I didn't kill her.. I didn't mean to.."

"You still did. And it was perfect. I am sorry this was all so deceitful, but you would've never succeeded if you knew," Hawk said earnestly. His tone was not hostile toward her, despite her pure

hatred for him at the moment. "Now. The final step."

Hawk looked toward the sky, and as he did, the dark cloud's of night rumbled. The thunder was earthshaking. As this occured, Hawk's eyes became a lighter blue, and the pupil enveloped the iris and his eyes were a signal radiating light, like the sun. He convulsed with power, before glancing up and charging at Thunderstar.

The leader did the same and they collided at a crack of thunder. Hawk's strength was uncanny and the bystanders couldn't believe what they were seeing. Thunderstar struck powerfully, but it had no affect to his opponent.

Thunderstar hissed and bit deeply into Hawk's throat, but he did not flinch as blood oozed out. Instead he stepped back, and let them watch in awe as the wound healed itself.

"Impossible.."

The unreal Hawk, turned to face him and surged forward without a change of expression. His right paw sunk into his one eye, slowly. Some say, that Thunderstar's screams of pain echoed through the forest, every storm.

When finished gorging his other eye, Hawk grabbed the leader by the scruff and tossed him to the ground, far from the ledge, where he could not crawl off.

"Please.. Please.. I'm sorry.."

Shadowstar scoffed to herself. *Now he begs forgiveness. Now, he's the coward.* Blackpaw was disgusted at Shadowstar's enjoyment, and Hawk's actions, but was not prepared to take action.

Hawk, almost mechanical, said nothing, and held the tom down, by the head, as his right paw sliced his belly open. The mutilating of his body, was the worst nightmare Blackpaw could've hoped for. She wanted to disappear, vanish, or even jump off the cliff. But she could not move.

"I'm coming Dapplestone.." When Thunderstar's screams finally

stopped, and he whimpered his last words, the forest, the lake and everyone, came to a still. His last breath would be remembered by Blackpaw, for the rest of her life. Not as a joyous occasion. But as the night she witnessed pure evil. And how it begins, and ends.

Thunderstar's entrails were scattered everyone around Hawk. But, it wasn't Hawk. Not anymore.

The radiant glowing blue eyes morphed into dark black orbs. At this, Hawk screamed to the sky, as if he were experiencing unbearable pain, before falling to the ground, limp. His blue eyes returned before they shut.

"Hawk," Blackpaw whispered carefully. She took a few steps forward, stepping over the bloody mess that was Thunderstar's insides.

"Hawk," she repeated, a bit louder. "Can you hear me?"

Suddenly, Hawk rose to his feet, and glanced around ominously before inhaling the forest's scents. His blue eyes were there, but something was different.

"Hawk.."

"Silence, yourself. I am not Hawk," he bellowed. The voice was not Hawk's, but the pelt, and eyes were.

"Then.. Who are you?" Shadowstar asked, amusing the clearly delusional Hawk. Little did she know.

"I am Darkness," he growled before whipping around to face Shadowstar. Without question or motive, he struck her across the muzzle and she fell near the ledge. He spat before sinking his claws into her flank.

"Stop. Go back. This isn't Alexandria nor a place for the dead," Zodiacpelt threatened sternly. Darkness chuckled before he stalked toward her.

"You are a silly she cat. Messenger for light bringer, I suppose? Tell *her*, to come down and fight me herself," Darkness demanded before

getting on the opposite side of Zodiacpelt and pushing her off void's cliff.

Blackpaw closed her eyes in vivid horror as she thought she heard the distance crack of bones, as her body hit the ground. She whimpered, whipping around to face the tom. Darkness or Hawk. She couldn't tell the difference.

Darkness spotted her and he bore a small smirk. "I look forward to seeing you soon, Sunlight.."

Darkness disappeared into the forest that lined the cliff. Blackpaw shuddered before she crossed to Shadowstar, urgently. *She must have more lives...*

Blackpaw waited for the leader to return. She believed the wound to the flank, could not take nine lives. *It couldn't*, she murmured to herself. She did learn a few things from Snakepaw, and it was that leaders can only be taken by deep gashes across the flank, that spill entrails or mass amounts of blood. Not simple wounds, like Shadowstar's.

But when the sunrise came, there was no return for Shadowstar. She was the only one alive to witness the horrors that occurred, yet she had no idea what she would do next.

The cliff's edge was inviting. The thought of ending everything fascinated her, more than it should've. *Why shouldn't I?* The anxiety, memories and guilt filled her brain like thorns, jabbing from the inside. Her stomach churned. *This is all my fault.*

"Blackpaw!" A voice called out from the bottom of the cliff. Below, a small patrol began to climb the rocks that led to the cliff. When they reached the top, she was met face to face with Steelstrike.

"It's all my fault," she whimpered. She crumbled, not able to hold her composure anymore. Steelstrike rushed forward to support her, being the good friend he was.

Sprucestrike and Aspenfur appeared behind him, observing the destruction.

"Blackpaw, can you recall what happened."

"Hawk became Darkness."

R.I.P BUBBLEFUR

Daughter of Skystar and Vulturestar, Bubblefur was not a lucky daughter. She was the only one to stay in the clan of their birth.

This poor she cat had little guidance from her peers, resulting in her evil actions. Her death was the first suicide in the forest of the lake, and she will be remember vividly.

R.I.P GEM

I hope you all know and remember the complex life of Gem. Her mother was murdered by her father. She was then kidnapped by her father and taken to DarkClan, where she was trained in the warrior ways.

Life was tough. She made it tougher when she killed Puddlepaw was no apparent reason, other than orders. Eventually she realized, she couldn't be tamed. She created RogueClan with her half-brother, Shadow.

All along, she had a love triangle. She ended up deducing Twistedfoot in a cave, and three moons later, they had kits. Just when she discovered her love for being a mother and we started liking her again, her father barged into her dreams demanding she go to void's cliff.

She was always destined for death. We can learn a very important lesson from her. Careful what you wish for.

We will love and remember you, hot mess of a she cat.

R.I.P THUNDERSTAR

Happy?
Now. Many don't know, Thunderstar was a tiny kit bastard. His

father had him with a beautiful she cat, named Colette. She left. And he was raised in SkyClan by his abusive father, Graystar, step-mother and half-siblings. His life was rough. And this made him a monster.

The only soft spot he had was for Dapplestone. When she died, the strategic and intelligent villain, turned into a mad one.

"Emperor of dumb-butts," everyone hated you. Since Your Legacy started, that is all the fans could comment about. I hope his horrific death has sufficed you!

You were a great villain. As author, I love you more than you'll ever know you hot mad mess. You screwed up every cat's life, and gave us the most important factor in these stories. *Plot.*

CeRosette Thanks for bringing this crazy idea of Thunderstar to the table. Without our archery and lunch table talks, Vulturestar and Voidstar would've been the biggest villain. Thunderstar was our brain baby. .

Finally. We say goodbye to this masterpiece. **No one**, will forget you.

R.I.P SHADOWSTAR

Friend to Skystar, and co-founder of LakeClan, you helped the feminist cat empower themselves! Bravo!

You've been a great leader, and sealed with life crisis' as well. She lost her unborn kit. That's some sad cat reality!

Puh-leaze Thank you for Shadowstar and the time you've spent with us!

R.I.P ZODIACPELT

No one knows where you came from, except Voidstar. The she cat who picked you up as a kit never foresaw the great things you would accomplish.

With the power to contact the dead, and speak with LightClan, she

was an asset to VoidClan. But to LakeClan, she was family. You would've made a great leader, of fate had been kinder.

MysteryHarp Thank you for Zodiacpelt and the marvelous insight that she gave us! We shall remember her, and maybe see her again in LightClan.

Thank you for 20 chapters of continued support, for those who made it. :)

I'm so glad to share this amazing story with you and we develop it together. Anything can happen. What shall happen next?

Chapter 21

Allegiances:

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior)

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Expecting Falconcry's kits.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Expecting Tallcloud's kits.

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Expecting Suntail's kits.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Kits:
Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 4 moons.

Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior)

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette)

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left

eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes.

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Apprentices:
Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Birchshiver

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor: Shimmerpool

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's.

His dark blue eyes. (Starshine28) Mentor: Birchshiver

Queen:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud) Kit: Icekit (Tom)

Kits:
Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) 2 moons.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 4 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 1 moon.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 1 moon.

Icekit- a young white and brown tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) 1 moon.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has

dark green eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears,

tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Apprentices:
Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Sharpwing

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Sprucestrike

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetstar

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonclaw

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Ivorykit- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. 4 moons. (Ivystar138)

Vinekit- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. 4 moons. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories)

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes.

Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (LPsNerdy)

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife)

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)
Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and

Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 3 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 3 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 3 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 3 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 1 moon.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 1 moon.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 1 moon.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. 1 moon.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy)

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (blazehood)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

"From this day forward, there shall be four clans, united beside one lake. MountainClan. CaveClan. LakeClan. And, StoneClan," Sleetstar declared from the shore of the lake. The many cats of the clans sat on the forest hill, where they could clearly see five representatives.

"To mark this historic night, and to continue future communications, each night of the full moon, we will meet at each other's camps, rotating and hosting each moon," Cinderstar

explained.

"And from this day forward, a cat much pledge his or her life to a single clan. They must vow to be governed by their laws, at 6 moons. And again, when their leader sees they are for to become a warrior," Sleetstar added on.

"We must depart before nightfall. Make your decisions and let the new clans, begin in peace..."

New and old friends said their goodbyes as cats split into their new clans, while others decided. Among them, were Twistedfoot, Fairshade and Blitzfire.

"We started out in one clan. Now we're in three," Blitzfire smiled. She briefly glanced at them, then back at her own kits, being watched by her four half-siblings. Twistedfoot's kits were also among them, not as excited as the others, but mostly confused.

"Where will they go?" Fairshade asked.

"My kits will stay with me. Gem and I agreed that the kits would be raised in a clan," Twistedfoot replied.

"And.. Our siblings?" Blitzfire mentioned subtly.

"They're old enough to decide," Fairshade decided. He took initiative and walked over to the four. "Have you four decided yet?"

"My place is in CaveClan," Aurapaw said, glancing at the others.

"Ours too!" Commitpaw said, speaking for her brother, Phantompaw. The two had always been particularly close.

"I wanted to ask you, if I could see another clan. It's not that I don't like, CaveClan or MountainClan, but I'd like to try something new. That's all," Wildpaw explained, uneasily. He had always wanted to get away from the two clans. CaveClan reminded him of the the times with his mother, and MountainClan only reminded him of his father. Both were deceased and now, he needed to move on.

"You could come to StoneClan with me? It's still a bit uneasy with

the old Thunderstar tension.. But Sleetstar is promising, and I can watch you there," Twistedfoot stated with a wide smile. Wildpaw had always admired Sleetstar, and he was good friends with her two sons. *StoneClan...*

"Yeah! I think, it'll be nice. I can always visit you though, every moon at the gatherings," he said to his siblings, who were saddened at his leaving. The litter had gone through a lot, but now, Wildpaw was ready to become his own self.

"Of course!" Commitpaw said.

"I have to go.. I don't want to leave the Bushwind alone with the kits for *too* long," Blitzfire chuckled, bidding her kin goodbye.

"We better be going. I'll miss you, brother," Phantompaw said, with a curt nod. Commitpaw, Phantompaw and Fairshade headed off, leaving Aurapaw with Wildpaw.

"We'll miss you. More than anyone. Don't forget about us, while you're fighting and killing foxes," Aurapaw grinned. Wildpaw shook his head and looked to his sister.

"I'll never forget you guys. I'll see you soon," Wildpaw said. Finally, he left with Twistedfoot, heading toward his new clan.

Others continued to make their farewells, but someone was not in the mood. Finchfeather sat next to Cougarclaw and Winterleaf, her long time partners in crime.

"Is that Maplewood?" Winterleaf asked quietly, glancing at the former LakeClan tom. Finchfeather glanced over, and somewhat recognized her father. He didn't look as clean as usual, but he didn't seem to care. He spoke with Inkjet, now known as Ink, and two other RogueClan cats.

"Yeah.."

"I thought he died... Like poor Marshpaw," Cougarclaw remarked, sadly.

"No. He just, left," Finchfeather sighed. She wasn't proud of her

father. They had once been close. Closer than most fathers are to their kits. Than, StormClan assigned him mates with Shadowstar.

Maplewood was delighted to have another mate. It had been hard for him after Finchfeather's mother died. But when, Shadowstar never felt the same, it made things awkward. Maplewood paid less attention to Finchfeather and his basic duties, and more to try to please Shadowstar.

When he heard Shadowstar was killed and lost the kit, he fell into despair. He didn't realize that she survived, and he left before she came back. And he didn't tell Finchfeather, anything, before he disappeared and joined RogueClan.

"I think the life will suit him. Clan life is pretty demanding," Winterleaf observed. Finchfeather gritted her teeth. She had no hate for her friend, but couldn't stand the thought of her father.

"Let's just go.."

"Wait. It's Blackpaw," Winterleaf exclaimed as she noticed her old friend cross over to them, with a ginger tom beside her. They hadn't seen Blackpaw since she last came to LakeClan, more than a moon ago. Than, they heard the tales of what happened to Shadowstar and Zodiacpelt the night of the half-moon.

"It's Blackice, actually. I came to say goodbye again, Winterpaw," Blackice said with a saddened tone.

"It's Winterleaf now. Well, Cougarclaw and Finchfeather too," she said with a smile. "But, what do you mean?"

"I'm staying in StoneClan. I couldn't see myself leaving, not after the things that happened.."

"Could we talk about it?" Winterleaf asked in a hushed tone.

"Another day.. Anyway, this is *my friend*, Steelstrike.."

"Hi!" Winterleaf exclaimed, noticing the hidden context. She smiled toward Blackice. *What a catch...*

"It's nice seeing you guys. But I have to go," Finchfeather said, noticing her father come closer. She didn't want to speak with him.

Cougarclaw glanced back at Finchfeather with a bit of worry but shrugged it off. *Worrying about she cats, could result in injury*. Badgerclaw, his mentor, had once told him.

"LakeClan's leaving. But, *Blackice*, I will miss you. But I wish the best," Winterleaf gushed before trotting off to follow Finchfeather and Cougarclaw.

The LakeClan cats who came, headed east for the river that separated CaveClan and LakeClan territory. It was not too deep, but the width of a camp. Slick stone lay beneath the water, and some stones for stepping, but they had to be avoided.

If a cat lost their foot, they could be swept down the river and into

When there was flooding, the river rushed with ferocity, but that night, it was swimmable. Only experienced swimmers could manage to swim it without drowning, but luckily, it was the first thing they learned.

"Pay attention, and don't let it take you into the lake," Leopardstar called out to the cats. Each cat prepared for the icy water, silently, but Dragonstone was the first to dive in.

He steadily led them toward camp, and never stopped swimming, as the current naturally drifted toward the lake. Mistyshine next, followed by Hiddencreek and Drizzlecloud. The former tribe cat, insisted he could swim, and wanted to join LakeClan.

Drizzlecloud swam fine, and to make sure, Leopard was on his right flank to make sure. Next, Cougarclaw let out a loud battle-cry as he leaped into the river, and began peddling water. Winterleaf went next, followed by Finchfeather.

Finchfeather didn't mind swimming, but she hated the current. She was a petite she cat, not like Winterfur who was Cougarclaw's size. So, it was annoying when she always fell downstream. This time, however, was deadly.

She struggled to keep swimming forward, but it pushed her down with ease. After she lost sight of her companions, she saw the lake in the corner of her eyes, and new the drop-off was coming. Every LakeClan cat knew, that the drop-off had rocks, and if you missed the rocks, you would be forced under into the churning lake water, until it dissipated and spat you up on the shore. There was no telling if she could hold her own, for that long.

Finchfeather refused to call for help though. The shore was cat-lengths away and she didn't want to admit she couldn't do it. When it seemed close, she took a deep and panicked breath.

But something grabbed her scruff. And steered them back and to the shore. Finchfeather was relieved when she reached it, but irritated when she turned to face her rescuer.

"I had it, you know."

"A simple, thank you, is enough," Badgerclaw replied, with no bitter tone. She sighed and realized she was acting ungrateful.

"I'm sorry. Thank you. I got worse over leaf-bare.."

"It's alright. I'll tell them you pulled yourself out at last minute, if you'd like," Badgerclaw purposed with a grin. He understood perfectly how some cats had to prove themselves more than others. Cougarclaw often acted that way in his former training.

"Thanks. But it doesn't really matter. Let's just get back to camp, I'm starving," Finchfeather said.

Back at camp, Dragonstone and Mistyshine were already enjoying a Robin caught that morning. As Shadowstar had promised, prey came. It seemed as if the temperatures rose slightly, and with that, came the birds.

Fish wouldn't be available until new-leaf but LakeClan were confident and hopeful. The day after their leader passed, Sprucestrike arranged for more prey to be brought over, saying that they had a surplus, after the Hawkwatch left.

"Dragonstone! You're smelly!" Duckkit said, before dashing away

immediately after. He rejoined his siblings, who had obviously put him up to the matter. The warrior frowned and stared at his prey.

"There are too many kits," he grumbled, glaring at the oldest litter. All the queens had delivered. And there were now thirteen kits, whom the clan had to bring up. "I'm *so* looking forward to mentoring.."

"Get used to it, grumpy. There's going to be more in new-leaf," Mistyshine mentioned subtly. Still watching the litter, he sighed.

"Yeah. I bet."

"Dragonstone."

"What?"

"I'm expecting kits," Mistyshine said, without expression, before she broke at his reaction. Her mate looked like the most stunned thing in the world, despite that they had been trying for the last moon. "What? We have.."

"That quick!"

"No. Since the half-moon.."

"How will they eat? We got lucky today with the birds, but the creeks haven't melted yet," Dragonstone worried. Mistyshine had the same thoughts, but knew that in three moons, new-leaf would be around the corner.

"Only Dovepool's kits are eating meat. And new-leaf will certainly have enough food. I promise," Mistyshine said nuzzling her head into the crook of his neck.

Only steps away, Moondust was trying to settle her kits down. Dovepool's had allowed her kits to stay up and wait for Rockfall and the others to return. Once Blossumkit had her mind set, there was no going back.

"I want to play!" Blossomkit squealed stubbornly. Mistkit and Skykit were cute and adorable, yet her mother wouldn't let her play with

them. Butterflykit and Flickerkit never wanted to play games with her, alone. Their always had to play with everybody, including her nasty brothers.

"They're younger than you, and trying to sleep. Skykit's eyes haven't even opened yet.. And Mistkit isn't good with her words yet," Moondust hushed her, pulling her closer with her tail. Her daughter was stubborn.

"But mommy.."

"Shut up, Blossum. I'm trying to sleep," Howlingkit murmured as he buried his head, into his mother's soft fur.

"Howlingkit, we don't say shut up. Bur we need to sleep, Blossumkit. It's too late. How are you Owlkit?" Moondust asked. The tom had his eyes set on what was happening outside the den, but he didn't seem affected by his sister's bickering.

Owlkit didn't make a sound. He hadn't spoken yet, except for basic grumbles or squeals. He always seemed in his own bubble, which began to worry his mother.

"Go to sleep... All of you," she whispered, hoping the other queens weren't affected. However, she still kept her eyes on Owlkit. Her son lied down, but kept his gaze elsewhere.

While each clan, returned to their camp, MountainClan's return was different. It had been more than six moons, since they had to leave their territory and flee to the mountains. They survived, but now they could leave.

At the gathering of the four clans, Swiftfawn made it known that she would not pursue leading. The clan wanted the most experienced she cat, but she declined, on the accounts that she wanted to spend more time learning about Hiddenwatcher's heritage, and how they could offer every cat, the chance at clan life.

The clan then turned to their next choice, and perhaps the brightest sign of hope they had to offer. Ever since she watched her mentor, Spiderstar, lead on the battlefield, she vowed to follow in his

footsteps. Flamespirit became Flamestar. And in this, promised to return MountainClan to its former glory.

She chose Suntail as her deputy, confident in her long-time friend.

Not only did MountainClan welcome, tribe cats to their clan in the recent moons, but many more. Lightningstrike, and Dawnpaw, became warriors of MountainClan. Dawnpaw became Dawnlight.

Swiftfawn was the first to enter the camp. She cherished the soft chilly, soil beneath her toes, and the pines, white with the sign of winter. And to the right of the camp, the tall oak, still standing. She she cat led the others into the camp, with a smile.

Many were young, and didn't remember the camp, because they were only kits. Flamestar's smile radiated and she gazed around, content. *We're home*.

"Olivenose, bring the herbs to this den. It's where we store them. We sleep with the sick in the den next to it.."

"I remember!"

"This is a very impressive camp," Breezetalon said, observing the structures of the den. Despite StormClan's control, the dens had little damage, and nothing that couldn't be fixed.

"We need to make an elder's den! I tell them. But is there a den for my old bones.."

"Willowbreeze, is the old deputy's den enough? I doubt Suntail and Teardrop need their own den," Rivertail said trying to appease her elder kin.

"Oh goody. Rivertail is a keeper.. You wouldn't mind, would you Suntail?"

"Not at all," he said with a grin.

"Good!"

While everyone continued to settle down in the midst of the night,

they didn't expect to receive another visitor. The she cat also knew the cat, remembered the smell, the touch, but she was not welcome to them.

"What're you doing here?" Flamestar asked at the sight of her. But Thornfrost didn't mind.

"This was always my home."

"You made your choice," Flamestar cut her off quickly. "And that choice cost us, Spiderstar, Jaggedclaw and countless others.."

"I believe you're mistaken, Flamestar. With all do respect, I went to StormClan under request. I went to meet my father..."

"And you served him.. You killed for him.."

"I've never killed a cat," Thornfrost replied without panic. Her composure outmatched anyone. She was always in control, which intimidated her challengers.

"It doesn't change the fact that *he's* your father.."

"Tallcloud is my brother. Palesky and Silvershell are my sisters. But they are not treated differently.."

"They are different," Flamestar said bluntly. Thornfrost looked at her paws. *Don't let them get to you.*

"I met him. I tried to return but no one knew where you were. I couldn't go on an adventure to find you because Thunderstar holds his kin on a leash. I sent Foxheart, and now he's dead. Thunderstar was no father of mine. And that is why I'm here. To pledge my life to my true clan. MountainClan."

"Pledge it somewhere else," Flamestar snapped bitterly.

"Flamestar," Suntail began uneasily. He had overheard the conversation, and felt Flamestar was going too far. "She didn't kill Wolfheart."

"Silence."

"Flamestar, let her in. Thornfrost could teach us many things of her experience," Hiddenwatcher grinned, from across camp.

"Fine. But if she takes one step out of line, you're to blame," Flamestar said to Hiddenwatcher. The older tom chuckled as Flamestar hastily made her way back to her den. Hiddenwatcher crossed over to Thornfrost, a grin still formed on his lips.

"I sense wisdom in you. And pain."

"There is no pain. Only guilt."

"They are the same," Hiddenwatcher cornered. Thornfrost narrowed her eyes.

"My father did not allow pain. He made his clan feel guilt, so that they would fight to overcome it. They are not the same. I do not feel pain. What do you feel?"

"Hope. Curiosity. Love for the stubborn one," he replied, glancing over to Swiftfawn.

"Who're you?" Thornfrost asked with a slight chuckle.

"A cat. Only a cat."

Thanks! Share your thoughts with everybody in the comments.

Darn. I just realized how SO FREAKIN LONG the allegiances is. Well. Whose ready to die? Ha ha ha. :(

A shoutout to the people who inspired this chapter with their great ideas:
Common_Conspiracy
WildUntilTheEnd
beautifully-awkward

Chapter 22

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one

covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Apprentices:
Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Birchshiver

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor: Shimmerpool

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (Starshine28) Mentor: Birchshiver

Queen:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud) Kit: Icekit (Tom)

Kits:
Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) 2 moons.

Hazelkit- a fluffy brown furred she cat with Amber eyes. 4 moons. (SeasonSnow)

Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 1 moon.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 1 moon.

Icekit- a young white and brown tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) 1 moon.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden

eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 3 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 3 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 3 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 3 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 1 moon.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 1 moon.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 1 moon.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 1 moon.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy)

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

"It was like, he wasn't himself. I never truly knew him, but he wasn't... *Evil*. One minute, he was Hawk, then his eyes glowed and turned black. Then, he said he was Darkness," Blackice explained as she walked across the shore. Winterleaf walked on her right flank, and her brother, Toadleap, trailed behind them.

"That's awful," Winterleaf muttered.

"He slaughtered them. I don't care if he's Hawk or not. Zodiacpelt's body was brought by in pieces," Toadleap reminded her. Blackice stopped and closed her eyes, trying to not focus on the memory.

"Toadleap, we didn't know him.."

"But he killed innocents."

"He's right, Winterleaf. Hawk had no excuse," Blackice murmured. "I just can't shake the guilt. I feel helpless. And now, where are they? The Hawkwatch, or whatever they're called, disappeared the night Darkness did.."

"So this Darkness guy, is a cat?" Toadleap asked.

"Yes. An ancient one. I've seen him in my dreams. But I can't believe they're the same person.. I'm sorry. It's just confusing," Blackice admitted, glancing over the lake. "I better get back to camp.."

"Are you sure?" Winterleaf asked, quietly.

"Yes. I'll see you soon," Blackice nodded farewell. Winterleaf touched noses with her before taking off. Her brother stood, but turned to face her.

"If you get these dreams again, come by LakeClan. Sweetbreeze is the most experienced medicine cats in the forest," Toadleap explained. His sister nodded in acknowledgement, but her mind was elsewhere.

"Thank you, for seeing me. I just needed to get it off my chest.. Let me know how all the kits are doing.."

"I will," Toadleap promised, as she trotted back onto the moors of StoneClan. He sighed and turned around, racing to catch up with Winterleaf. She smiled as he caught up to her left flank, and they continued down the sandy shore, onto camp.

"Do you think she'll be alright?" Winterleaf asked, uneasily.

"After what she saw, I doubt she'll ever be alright again. I hope StoneClan treats her right," Toadleap said, with a subtle sigh. He didn't completely trust the former StormClan regime, despite their rebellion. He just hoped they'd care for his sister.

"I can't believe the kits.. Do you think one of them will be your apprentice someday?"

"I'm not ready for that! But, another medicine cat would be great.."

"I hope I get Flickerkit. She's so sweet," Winterleaf smiled.

The two were in distance of camp now, when they smelled the potent and tangy scents of rogues. They quickened their paces and entered camp to see the RogueClan cats.

Although they contributed to fighting Thunderstar, the clans did not respect nor consider them to be an actual clan. They were almost lawless and did not particularly care for, or believe in LightClan.

They gained a few more members, after losing Gem and Hawk to causes they were never fully informed of. Now, Llewyn had taken a leadership role, was ready to pitch his ideas to each leader, beginning with LakeClan.

"Mistyshine..."

"Llewyn is speaking with Leopardstar," she answered. Winterleaf nodded and glanced across camp.

The RogueClan cats easily made themselves at home. Ink, formerly Inkjet, and Maplewood were not happy to return to LakeClan, but didn't make a big fuss. Finchfeather, however, was livid.

She paced near the warrior's den, avoiding her father's glances. Winterleaf quickly crossed to her friend, trying to calm her.

"We can go hunting, if that'd make things better," Winterleaf suggested quietly. Finchfeather shook her head and sat, stubbornly.

"No. He should see what he left.."

While Winterleaf sat beside her friend, in a supportive manner, Mistyshine crossed to the nursery. She hadn't visited the nursery or Lightsplash for several days.

The mothers didn't like anyone else present when kitting, and since there were so many kits, things often grew chaotic. And with the prey pile finally growing, she had time to visit her friend.

As she entered, she saw the queens look up briefly, before laying back down. Napping, was their favorite pastime.

"Whose that?" Coalkit squealed, writhing in his mother's grasp. Silverfeather appeared to be bathing her two toms.

"That's Mistyshine. She's a warrior," Silverfeather replied patiently, a smile pursed on her lips. Cragkit didn't speak, but smiled. *Pretty...*

"You're not a real warrior! She cats are only queens!" Coalkit snapped. Silverfeather frowned and faced her son.

"We were all warriors before queens. Leopardstar is a she cat, but she can never become a queen. Queens have to be warriors beforehand, so that they can protect their kits from big bad foxes," she said, making Cragkit giggle and smile. Coalkit just wrinkled his nose.

"I can take on a fox by myself!" He declared. Cragkit giggled more at this, but his brother only growled.

"Calm down sweetie. What do you need, Mistyshine?" She asked with a chuckle.

"I was looking for Lightsplash.."

"We had to move Lightsplash, Dovepool, and Moondust's kits to the bigger and newly improved nursery. It's to the left of this den," she directed. Mistyshine smiled and gave a curt nod, before entering the next nursery.

Sure enough, there was Lightsplash, feeding three fluffs of fur.

"Mistyshine! I would've prepared if I knew you were coming.."

"Mommy... Can Misty play with us?" Scalykit asked almost immediately.

"No. You're eating.."

"I like her name. It's like mine mommy," Mistkit squeaked, smiling at Mistyshine. Lightsplash realized her kit's focus was gone, and sat up.

"We named her, Mistkit. After you," Lightsplash said with a smile.

"Awe. I'm honored. I hope she's not a troublemaker," Mistyshine replied, glancing down at Mistkit, who grinned wildly.

"Not yet. How are you? I would've came out, but these three are all light sleepers and I don't want them to go out until they're at least a

moon old," she explained, glancing at the three. Troutkit made a pouty face at her remark, but she ignored it.

"I'm great. Actually. I'll be sleeping her in two moons," Mistyshine admitted. Lightsplash's eyes lit, and she smiled wildly.

"Really! That's amazing! You finally got away and.."

"Not in front of the," Dovepool warned gently. Lightsplash stopped speaking, and smiled. "I'm really happy for you. Our kits will have kits and.. Ah. The circle of life. Speaking of which, will you three introduce yourselves.."

"I'm Mistkit," the gray she cat giggled.

"I'm Scalykit," the tiny brown she cat said with a smirk. They both looked to their brother who was playing by himself.

"Oh!" He exclaimed, realizing their waiting eyes. "I'm Troutkit..."

As Mistyshine continued to speak with Lightsplash and her kits, Llewyn tried to convince Leopardstar of their cause.

"Your clan has the most liberties and freedoms of the four, this would be a great opportunity to grant rights to all cats! They could vote on representatives, and that could be the leader," Llewyn proposed with wide eyes. He had been planning the new system for months with Lynch and advice from Shadow and Lostpath who had lived in the clan system for majority of their lives and were non-bias.

"I'm not sure," Leopardstar admitted uneasily.

"What if the leader or representative is bad? What if they're like Thunderstar," Ottertail asked, shifting on his paws.

"Simple. We shall impeach them!"

"What is..."

"It's where the cats of the state, I mean clan.. Decide that the representative is bad and they replace him. This needs two/thirds

majority!"

"Where did you say, you learned this?"

"My twolegs had a *TV*. They left it on and I watched and learned," Llewyn explained. Ottertail and Leopardstar exchanged glances, before turning back to him.

"We really do respect you, Llewyn. And your ideas of peace are... Interesting. But I don't want to pledge my clan to something I don't fully understand. Perhaps, if the other leaders supported it, I'd consider this. But, not now," Leopardstar decided, respectfully. Llewyn nodded, disappointed but determined. *They will understand*.

"I'll change your mind soon! I promise," he replied with a bright smile, before leaving the leader's den. The RogueClan cats got to their feet and disbanded almost immediately. "Thank you for the hospitality!"

Leopardstar watched the band of misfits depart and a grin grew on her face. She looked at Ottertail, who was substitute for Rockfall who had been hunting with Dragonstone. "That was... *Strange*. Yet intriguing."

"Definitely. He knows a lot of words.."

"I hope it works. Ha, imagine. A president? Such a funny name," Leopardstar chuckled before returning to her den.

As LakeClan came to a calm in the evening, so did CaveClan, as Cinderstar and his daughter sat down to eat. Hazelkit prodded at her mouse, not exactly motivated to eat.

"Is everything alright?"

"Fine, dad. Stop worrying," she replied quickly. She took a bite, despite her empty hunger. That way, she wouldn't have to speak. The tangy meat of the mouse met her tongue, but still, nothing.

"Are you excited? Only a few more days," Cinderstar said, with lit eyes.

"For what?"

"Your apprenticeship. It begins at five moons. You couldn't stop asking about it moons ago!"

"Oh. Well, things change. I guess," Hazelkit admitted, as she swallowed the piece of mouse. She didn't go back for another bite.

"I wanted to know you'd you like as a mentor. It might be good for you, to have someone you can relate with," he began, seeing the conversation was getting nowhere. "How about, Duskfall?"

"I guess she's... Fine. If that's what you'd think is best," Hazelkit replied. However, Hazelkit didn't find her the best choice. Duskfall was very focused and into her duty, never sparing time for toms or friends. The only ones she spoke with were her siblings, who she was very close with. Hazelkit could imagine how stressful training might be with her as her mentor.

"What's wrong? Don't deny it, again!"

"I lived," she whispered.

"What!" Her father asked, not quite hearing her.

"I lived! Okay. I should've died, but I didn't.. I have no idea why I didn't. I was around mom all that time, and no signs. Even, Darkkit caught it, but she didn't..."

"You don't want to die... No cat does."

"Sure dad.."

"So Duskfall?" Cinderstar asked again.

"No.. No. I think, Silentcry would be better for me," Hazelkit said. Silentcry's name always sent a shiver through her spine. It was beautiful, yet so dark. And her demeanor was calm also.

"You know, I might as well do it now. You're five moons right.. I guess. In a day or two. But, dad. Not right now!"

"No, no. It's fine! This will be great," Cinderstar said, trotting the opening of his den, a bit more elevated than the rest of the clan.

Hazelkit sighed. *Hazelpaw, here I come*.

Thanks!

Chapter 23

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior)

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Expecting Tallcloud's kits.

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Expecting Suntail's kits.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Kits:
Jaykit- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. 5 moons.

Ravenkit- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. 5 moons.

Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior)

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette)

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:

Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Apprentices:
Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Sharpwing

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Sprucestrike

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetstar

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories)

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117)

Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (LPsNerdy) 1 moon.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 1 moon.

"Dawncloud, Dustystripe and Moonbliss. Together, take your apprentices hunting," Twistedfoot assigned them. Dawncloud narrowed her eyes at the crippled tom, weary of his authority.

However, she did as she was told. She peered over to the

apprentice's den where they sat outside, awaiting their mentors. With a glare and a flick of her tail, Ivorypaw came running. Russetpaw and Ebonypaw soon came, and they headed off.

From the beginning, Ivorypaw could tell Russetpaw was in a bad mood. He held a long lasting scowl on his face, which Dustystripe didn't pay any attention too. Ivorypaw was about to say something, when the tom spoke for himself.

"I hate this!"

"Stop whining," Dustystripe snapped. He shared a similar expression to Russetpaw's, but wasn't one to frequently complain.

"We do more hunting than anything anymore! I'm a warrior, not a hunter.."

"This is what clans did before he empire," Moonbliss explained.

"Well, it's stupid. I shouldn't need to hunt. She cats should do that for me!" Russetpaw scowled, before smirking at Ivorypaw. She frowned and looked away. *How gross*.

"Watch it, kit! You keep running that tongue of yours, you'll lose it," Dawncloud threatened with a bitter glare.

"It was a joke! But seriously, Sleetstar is the worst choice of a leader! She couldn't fight off a fox pup! Crimsonclaw should've been up there.."

"Crimsonclaw, stood with Thunderstar then left with the *hawkwatch weirdos*," Ivorypaw snapped with a bitter tone. Every time she had patrols with Russetpaw, he was a complete piece of horse dung.

"Crimsonclaw is a true warrior. Not a self-glorified she cat! Even her sons are pathetic... Swiftpaw, more like Swift-"

"Shut up!" Moonbliss hissed. She had caught a nearby rabbit scent and couldn't stand more of his gossiping.

"What's so great about your name, Russetpaw?" Ebonypaw murmured with a chuckle. He glared at him strongly before

continuing.

"Thunderstar was crazy, I admit. But there's idiots still in our clan. Sleetstar, Twistedfoot, oh! And Sprucestrike.."

"Sprucestrike should've been banished for what he did, for Thunderstar! We followed orders, but we didn't kill for fun," Dustystripe remarked, not able to keep his mouth shut. At these words, Ivorypaw slipped back to Ebonypaw's flank.

"Did you here what he did to Jaggedclaw? Some say it's worse than what Hawk did to Rosejay.."

Do they realize that's my father? Ivorypaw wondered silently. Her mother, Ivysong hadn't spoke to Sprucestrike in days. Supposedly, the rumor was true that he killed MountainClan's former deputy, Jaggedclaw. It disgusted Ivorypaw how they all jumped on one side, sticking the killers on another. *They followed Thunderstar, too*.

"Vulturestar's son, was the worst. He killed his own mate... Then ran away!" Moonbliss whispered to Dawncloud. Ivorypaw felt tears come to her eyes. *Not Moonbliss too*. Her mother had told her that Vulturestar was a hero. He brought her mother into the clans along with other rogues. "*He never made the best choices, but he tried. That's what matters,"* her mother had told her when she first asked about the name. Thunderstar labeled his own son as a traitor, but the clan new better.

"Ebonypaw, I'm going back to camp. My stomach hurts.."

"Alright. Do you need help?"

"Nah. I'll make it," she replied. Although false, she was in pain. She couldn't believe what they were saying about their own clan, and she couldn't take it. She had to tell someone.

She found Ivysong, in tears. And she brought her to Sleetstar's den, to explain what had happened.

"I'm sorry," Ivorypaw sniffled, afraid she had made a scene.

"It's alright. Can you tell me what's wrong?"

"My patrol... They were saying horrible things about you, my dad and Vulturestar. It was just... Too far. I'm sorry, I probably should've kept it too myself," Ivorypaw insisted letting out another sob. Sleetstar shook her head.

"No no. If it upsets you, it upsets me. Please explain more," Sleetstar asked gently, keeping eye contact with the young she cat. Ivysong sat at the entrance and listened as her daughter revealed everything that she had heard, and more.

When finished, Sleetstar thanked Ivorypaw for her honesty and insisted she go to see Snakefoot to calm herself down. As the two she cats left, Sleetstar almost cried herself.

She sensed it would be a difficult journey, from where they were now, to where they would need to be. She had to unify the clan, or next time a revolution of disaster happened, there wouldn't be another clan.

Later in the evening, Sleetstar gathered the clan, so that everyone would be present. To her knowledge, everyone was.

She spotted the large group of apprentices, the Warriors, Ivysong beside Ivorypaw, and Sprucestrike in the back of camp, keeping to himself. Even Moonpelt was sitting by himself, as far away from his siblings as possible. *Things have to change*.

"Let me make this clear. We are not DarkClan and we are not StormClan... We are not the other clans. We will never be," Sleetstar declared across the camp. "Each of us, know the true meaning of loss, pain, and what it is to work and train harder than any other clan. We're outcasts and evil to the other three, but without each other, we're nothing. You never stopped being my clan, when I joined CaveClan," she said facing her old friends. *Ivysong, Earthfoot. Aspenfur*.

"Anyone who dares to persecute Sprucestrike, or the memory of Vulturestar, will have to answer to me and the law of our clan. They both stood up to Thunderstar, when we did not. That goes for everyone who has made mistakes. Whether you like it or not, they are our clanmates. Treat them as such. That is all."

As the clan reacted to the strict words, yet moving words of Sleetstar, Ivysong faced her daughter.

"Thank you. I'm going to go speak with your father. You'll be alright, yes?"

"Yeah. I'm fine," Ivorypaw assured her mother. Seeing her cross to her father, brought a happiness back into her heart. But her thoughts, were interrupted but a deliberate shove. Ivorypaw fell to the ground, and whipped around to see Russetpaw was the culprit.

"No one likes tattle-tails. If you do it again, I'll have to take yours off," Russetpaw threatened, as he slammed his paws down on her tail. Ivorypaw recoiled with a hiss, when a figure emerged from her right eye.

"Leave her alone, ginger.."

"I'm not ginger, stupid!"

"Doesn't change the fact the you've got a mouse brain," Wildpaw spat. Russetpaw didn't like to back down from a challenge but lashed his tail.

"Don't worry, *Wildpaw!*" He spat. "We'll continue this later."

"Thanks," Ivorypaw muttered as she got to her paws. She titled her head, observing Wildpaw. He was about a moon or two older than her, but he wasn't intimidating, like she expected.

"No problem. What's his?"

"He's just a mousebrain, like you said," Ivorypaw chuckled. "I'm Ivorypaw."

As the two apprentices continued their introductions, MountainClan was also dealing with apprentices. In this scenario, Flamestar was contemplating on who would mentor her own sons.

The decision was very difficult, so she had to take the counsel of her experienced MountainClan leaders. Among them, were Hiddenwatcher and Suntail. Swiftfawn could not partake because

she and Thornfrost took Cloverpaw and Cardinalpaw out for battle training.

"I feel I cannot properly place my sons. So I have called you here," Flamestar explained.

"Aren't you there mother? I'd expect you to know more than anyone," Hiddenwatcher began with a curiosity. She shook her head.

"Some would think that. So, Jaykit. Who shall mentor him? I was thinking a younger cat.."

"Well it depends. Do you want the experience?" Hiddenwatcher asked.

"They'll never have experience if they never have their first apprentice," Flamestar cornered. Hiddenwatcher nodded with a grin. "I was thinking Ashfall.."

"Ashfall hasn't found himself yet. He just became a warrior," Hiddenwatcher argued, respectfully. Intrigued by his comment, she questioned him.

"Hasn't he given enough to MountainClan? Perhaps this will help him?"

"Mentors help their apprentices. Not the other way around. Besides, their personalities are opposites.."

"How about Lightningstrike? He's older. Talented," Suntail proposed.

"He only just arrived in MountainClan," Flamestar mentioned. They nodded.

"It would give him time to prove himself," Suntail said. "And, he'll always be able to keep up with Jaykit."

"I think your right. Perhaps he can share some of the LakeClan teachings," Flamestar said. "Then it's decided. But Ravenkit.."

"What?"

"He's always so difficult. His mentor will have to bear the burden..."

"Flamestar. If it is that much of a burden, choose me. I find burdens, intriguing at times," Hiddenwatcher requested bowing his head respectfully. Flamestar became pensive but looked to Suntail, and they both nodded.

"Very well. I think you will teach him well," she said before coming to her paws, once more. They left the den, and Flamestar took her position on the broken branch.

Two patrols were out hunting, but it didn't make a difference. She glanced across the camp before calling out the ceremonial phrase.

"All cats of MountainClan, gather in the center of camp!" Her voice signaled many to come.

The first to come into the center of camp were Blitzfire and her young litter. The three had recently opened their eyes, but slowly followed her to witness the commotion.

Falconcry joined Cloudfire, as the entrance to the nursery, where Swankit, their newborn, clung to her mother's fur. Breezetalon, Shimmerpool and Beestorm shared tongues with each other near the warrior's den, and their ears perked at the calling. Olivenose appeared from the den, but Bushwind, was still out looking for herbs.

Flamestar smiled as she saw her two sons crawl out of the nursery. They had both been fed up with sleeping there, every since the queens and kits began to grow. Jaykit's blue eyes were wide with energy, reminding her of his father. Ravenkit, however, held his usual unchanging scowl.

"Today, we gather to begin the training of the new apprentice's of our clan. Jaykit and Ravenkit, would you please step forward.." The toms did as requested, though Jaykit carried more spunk in his step.

"Jaykit. Do you pledge to serve MountainClan as long as you shall live?"

"I do!"

"From this day until your warrior-ship, you shall be known as Jaypaw. Lightningstrike, has proved to be a loyal and supportive warrior in the past moons. We believe that his past knowledge will be helpful as a mentor," Flamestar declared. She sensed an awkward tension as Ashfall and Echoheart, shifted on their paws. They were born and raised in MountainClan, but now, they weren't good enough to mentor?

"Ravenkit, do you.."

"No," he replied coldly.

"No!" His mother spat.

"No. I can choose who I pledge loyalty to and it will not be MountainClan," he declared. With a serious glare, he began to walk out the front entrance. Flamestar jumped down from the branch and stalked to his flank.

"What're you doing... You were raised here!"

"I wasn't raised *here*.. I belong nowhere!"

"You belong with your brother. In your mother!" She struggled to say. He whipped around, facing her with yellow eyes.

"You are not my mother! And you are no leader of mine..."

Thank you always for reading, voting and commenting! I can't say it enough.

For all you newbies, I hope you've caught up and are with us. Everyone else, give them a warm welcome.
@_WildGirl2989-AJ_
@DanielleReeves9
Jeweledstories
@caliswaglife
ArtisticWisdom

@Lilacfur
@OneCreativeCat
@Huskyclaws
@Dovewing0703
@Dreamspirit_warrior
@Snowstarrr
@foofoo10
Legomy
@Deadly_Foul_Player
@LillianFaux
thislittlefreak
LordPenguin117
@prettykitty500
@corgi-
@wxrriorcatsforlife

If you like cats in general, go read LordPenguin117 's book...
"*Nightcats*"
It's got great humor and creativity, and he's a young buddy of mine whose new on the site! Spread the love!

Chapter 24

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (Coldfrost)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Apprentices:
Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Sharpwing

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Sprucestrike

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetstar

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her

back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories)

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117)

Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (LPsNerdy) 1 moon.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 1 moon.

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (Coldfrost)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Waking up besides his fellow Rogue clanmates, Llewyn was more nervous than ever. Lynch stirred beside him, but his friend was a

deep sleeper. He quietly got to his paws and peered across the lake.

RogueClan was camping near the shore of the lake, between LakeClan and StoneClan. The reeds were relatively comfier, than other places they had slept.

"Are you alright?" Lynch asked groggily, seeing he was awake. Llewyn was definitely a morning cat.

"Yeah. Just prepping," he replied. Lynch smiled and sat up.

"Sleetstar will realize it's a genius plan," Lynch assured him.

"Leopardstar didn't..."

"She's young," Lynch reminded him.

"You're right. There's no way she can say no!" Llewyn exclaimed, trying to channel his positive attitude.

"Do you remember the talking points?"

"Of course! Should everyone come along? Or.."

"You'll be fine," Lynch said. "Maybe take along Shadow. He's been kind of gloomy lately."

"Thanks. We'll be back soon, than head for the twolegplace," Llewyn informed him before trotting over to Shadow. He sat on the shore, staring blankly into the water. His gaze was unmoving.

"Shadow," Llewyn began. "Shadow. Is everything alright?"

"What's the point?"

"What?"

"What's the point of all this work? All this planning and fighting if another threat comes out of nowhere," Shadow murmured, still staring into the depths of the lake.

"It's not for nothing."

"It is. Gem died, and we didn't even get to bury her body. My father disappeared into thin air and.. My sister had a kit. Llewyn, she made a new family. And I was so busy... *doing this*, I didn't know. And *Brinepaw*.."

"You can leave, if you need to. Anytime. You know that," Llewyn mentioned, trying to be comforting. He shook his head, turning to him. His eyes didn't meet his, however.

"Let's go," he replied. Llewyn nodded and they took off toward the camp. The wind was blowing east, so their scents would be hard to detect until they were at their camp. Shadow hoped they didn't take their visit, as an ambush.

Luckily, they slid into camp without disturbance and the cats of StoneClan turned their heads in alarm. Seeing it was only two cats, some relaxed, while others watched curiously.

"Llewyn! And... Shadow... What a surprise?" Sleetstar exclaimed as she spotted them. She was sharing a meal with her two sons when they had arrived.

"I have come here to propose a plan. Is it alright if we talk in private?" Llewyn asked, lowering his voice.

"Of course.. Right this way. Hailpaw, please go get Twistedfoot," Sleetstar said before leading the two into her den. As they sat, Twistedfoot limped into the den, and sat beside Sleetstar. "So, your plan?"

"Yes! RogueClan had come up with the ultimate system of governing for the five clans.."

"Four," Sleetstar coughed.

"With a combination of talking points and twoleg-based systems, I present you... The United clans of Llewyn," he declared proudly. Twistedfoot found himself laughing on the floor, while Sleetstar tried to compose herself.

"I'm afraid we cannot name it after you..."

"Fine. But Columbus got everything named after him.."

"What?"

"So! The Talking points. For the moons since you came here, Sleetstar, you have been fighting clan after group after leader. But why?"

"Because they're evil.."

"No. Because they weren't informed of the law. You see, the five clans each have different laws. You need a central code of ethics formed by a group of elected representatives, to prevent any of this from happening ever again!" Llewyn explained throughly. Sleetstar exchanged a small glance with Twistedfoot before nodding toward Llewyn.

"Go on."

"Each clan would vote a representative other than their leader or deputy. This representative would sit in a meeting each half-moon, to make sure the federal laws are formed and kept in each clan. The best part is, these representatives can be anyone that's 10 moons old! They can't already be leader or deputy. But they're elected by the cats. So no bias!"

"What if the clan is corrupt and not following the code?"

"Then, the clan can impeach the leader. Or the leader, deputy or representative can issue a state of emergency. The closest clans would oversee that the issue, whatever it may be, is contained."

"Ah. But, does StoneClan have to conform to the federal laws?" Twistedfoot asked.

"Only, if they conflict with other clan's rights. The laws made in the small council of representatives shall not be based on a clan's domestic issues, since a cat chooses who they pledge allegiance to. They shall list what a cat cannot do in the five clans," Llewyn explained.

"And who oversees these small meetings? How do we know they are

keeping the law?" Sleetstar questioned.

"The president," he replied dreamily.

"President?"

"The head of the entire clans. He or she oversees that the clans are always protected. The president calls the clans to battle, if needed, and sets future policy.."

"I think this is a very intriguing plan of keeping peace. We look forward to supporting it," Sleetstar decided with a curt nod. Shadow's jaw dropped open. While Llewyn's eyes widened.

"Really?"

"Yes! The only way to keep future peace is through the cooperation of all the clans. We will still have gatherings though, correct?"

"Yes. Thank you, very much Sleetstar," Llewyn smiled.

"No problem. As long as we don't catch your warriors on our territory," she grinned. Llewyn grinned and glanced at Shadow.

"Very well. We'll see you on the full moon!" As the two RogueClan cats headed out of StoneClan camp, so did a group of apprentices.

Russetpaw, Vinepaw, Kindlepaw, and Dreampaw raced out of camp without their mentors. Under Russetpaw's request, the others gladly followed, tired of sitting around camp. It was early in the morning, but their mentors hadn't woken yet, so they took the liberty to entertain themselves.

"Where should we go?" Dreampaw purred, looking at Russetpaw. Aloepaw and Dreampaw talked about how handsome he was, frequently. *His dark red pelt, and his charming brown eyes*. Russetpaw observed the terrain than decided that the lost forest, was definitely a place to go. It was quiet, private and a big risk to take.

"The lost forest.."

"Are you sure?" Kindlepaw asked, wearily.

"What! Are you scared?" Vinepaw bantered with a grin. He became flustered and followed them without replying.

Rushing to get out of site, they raced there. In the end, Kindlepaw was the first to reach the edge of the forest. With his tall legs, lean facade, and Airflight as his mentor, it was never much of a race.

The trees weren't as high as they were on MountainClan territory. In fact, most of the trees were dead, and free of leaves. However, the strange thorn bushes and vines tangled throughout the trees, making it quite eery.

"Lead the way, Kindlepaw," Russetpaw insisted with a scowl.

"Why? I won!"

"I'll do it," Vinepaw said, sending a smirk toward Dreampaw. As she barreled into the woods, she kept on going, assuming the three were behind her. But when she was deep in the wounds, she turned around, to see no one.

Glancing around frantically, she couldn't see the sun. The forest was so dark, the wood so colorless. She didn't remember which way was out.

"Guys! Where'd you go?" Vinepaw screamed frantically. She heard a shriek from a few yards away, and bolted toward the sound. She climbed over the fallen dead logs, when she slipped.

Vinepaw fell off one of the logs, landing on her right foot. She grunted, as she felt a soreness come from the fall. She glanced around, noticing that she was on the very ground, where the roots tangled with the brush piles and leaves. She sat patiently and rested, when she heard a strange sound behind her. *Hiss.*

Vinepaw whipped around, but it was too late, a brown snake, bit into her tail. She screamed in pain, but hastily slashed at the snake, and it retreated into the undergrowth from which it came.

"Ahh," she breathed in pain. The pain stung and circulated around her tail, and wouldn't stop. Her legs and body in general was becoming weak. *I need to find the others...*

Straight ahead, she heard Dreampaw's voice, moaning in pain.

Vinepaw limped through the foliage, almost to the source of Dreampaw's voice, when she was faced with another obstacle. A large log stood in her way, Vinepaw grappled onto the log with her front paws, and pulled herself up with all the front muscle she had. Once to the top, she slipped over the side and looked ahead of her.

There, in a small area, were Russetpaw and Dreampaw. But neither were in pain.

"Oh LightClan.. Vinepaw!" Dreampaw gasped, quickly retreating from Russetpaw. Her eyes were frantic and she looked to Vinepaw, pleadingly. "It's not what you think..."

"I think is it," she said immediately, looking away. "Where's Kindlepaw?"

"He got scared and left!" Russetpaw chuckled, mocking the tom. Dreampaw turned to him with an uneasy expression.

"He's my brother!"

"So what? Can't we just continue, and Vinepaw can learn to get some manners..."

"Excuse me," Vinepaw murmured. She felt light on her paws, and her sight became fuzzy. Dreampaw frowned at Russetpaw. He was about to reply when a rustle came from a few cat-lengths away.

As the patrol burst through the trees, Vinepaw dropped to the ground, unconscious. Sprucestrike, Poisonberry and Moonbliss were among the patrol. Realizing what had been going on, Moonbliss ushered the two out of the woods. Sprucestrike rushed to his daughter's side.

"Vinepaw! What happened?"

"She's unconscious!" Poisonberry said, examining her body. She noticed her tail was tucked under her unmoving body. She pulled it out and immediately noticed a small wound where tiny drops of blood dripped out. "She was bitten.."

"We need to take her back to Snakefoot!"

"No. She won't make it. We take the tail, or the venom takes her.."

"Poisonberry..."

"I'm right! My sibling died from this. Trust me," she said, bending down to the young apprentice. "Look away if it helps.." Sprucestrike did as she recommended, and glared away as Poisonberry amputated Vinepaw's tail, with her teeth.

Thanks for reading, voting and commenting.

Chapter 25

[image]

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Expecting Tallcloud's kits.

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Expecting Suntail's kits.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior)

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette)

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-)

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Apprentices:
Frogpaw- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian) Mentor: Fairshade

Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Tidefur

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor: Silvershell

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (Starshine28) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hazelpaw- a fluffy brown furred she cat with amber eyes. (SeasonSnow) Mentor: Silentcry

Queens:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (MidnightMoon1323) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud) Kit: Icekit (Tom)

Kits:
Amberkit- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) 3 moons.

Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 2 moons.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 2 moons.

Icekit- a young white and brown tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) 1 moon.

Ashfall woke in his nest, not feeling anything in particular. He had the same dream, once more. His father, Spiderstar, screaming in pain as his stomach was ripped open. And Thunderstar laughed as the blood dripped off his claws. His father would face him, and say, "Help me son," then he would die and Ashfall would wake.

Ashfall was only four moons old when the MountainClan was defeated, brutally murdered and exiled. And now, it seemed strange, that is was all over.

It stunned him, every morning. *How could it end like that? A rogue killing him? And no survivors...* That's the story MountainClan was told, but Ashfall wasn't convinced. I'll figure this out dad, I promise.

"Hey, Ashfall. Let's go hunt," his sister suggested, noticing he was awake and struggling. Echoheart and him stood then walked out to see Lightningstrike speaking with Jaypaw. The tom beamed as he instructed his apprentice on hunting techniques.

For some reason, Echoheart took disdain from this.

"He doesn't have to rub it in our face," she scowled.

"He's new," Ashfall replied bitterly. He didn't want to gossip so left the conversation at that, but Echoheart continued.

"Exactly. We're both more than ready for apprentices and she gives him to Lightningstrike. Flamestar is a joke.."

"Careful," Eagleflight said as he came up behind them. "Bushwind may tattle on us.."

"Flamestar has known us all our lives and *just*, gave Jaypaw to him!" She snapped.

"She never gave Ravenkit a mentor before he left. Maybe it would've been you," Eagleflight said.

"Yeah right. The only reason it's not Flamestar is because of Swiftfawn's tom from the tribe. He gives me the creeps," Echoheart stated, mentally shuddering.

"Why?" Eagleflight asked.

"I was hunting and he was staring at me. From the trees... I asked him why, and he said, 'you don't ask birds the why they fly'. What the dung? This clan is crazy!" Ashfall nodded before standing, and trotting over to Suntail, who began sorting patrols and such.

"What am I doing today?"

"If you, Eagleflight and Echoheart could go hunting, that'd be

great!" Suntail said with a smile. He nodded and took off for the others.

Once out of camp, Eagleflight was a chatter box.

"I was on border patrol yesterday and I saw the prettiest she cat, across the lake. She was practically glowing!" He declared, with passionate eyes.

"Probably a vision. Are you eating toads?" Ashfall chuckled.

"No! *She was real. You can't tell anyone...* But I kinda went across the border yesterday. Just to talk to her! And I did!" Eagleflight exclaimed. Echoheart and Ashfall exchanged glances before glaring back at him.

"What'd she say?"

"First, she said I was a fat tom.."

"That's a great start," Echoheart said sarcastically.

"But! Then, she said that she could help. If we went swimming..."

"You made this up!"

"No I didn't!"

"Oh yeah? What's her name?" Echoheart challenged with narrowed eyes. Eagleflight's expression dropped.

"I forgot to ask!"

"You're a lost cause," Ashfall said with a smirk. They continued to heckle him until they actually started hunting.

Meanwhile, it was still dawn for CaveClan. Hazelpaw had just crawled out of her nest, tired and sore, when Amberkit trotted over.

"Hey Hazelpaw!" Amberkit exclaimed, trotting over to her.

"Hi," she yawned, walking up to her.

"How was your first day?" Amberkit asked. Hazelpaw tilted her head in confusion until her younger friend clarified. "As an apprentice..."

"Oh! It was cool. Silentcry walked me through the territory, and on the way, she caught a turtle and I caught a minnow..."

"I've never seen a turtle before!"

"They're not really prey. They have pelts hard as stone, but they don't even run away. The turtle just hid in its pelt," Hazelpaw explained. Amberkit was completely engaged in the story.

"I wish I was five moons. So I could've come along... Sitting in the nursery all day is the worst!"

"I know. I was there a day ago. You've got less than a moon and a half! How're Bearkit and Foxkit?" Hazelpaw asked, glancing over at the nursery. The little brown tom was chasing his sister around camp. Amberkit chuckled.

"Timberfall visited yesterday while Earthstripe went for a hunt with Silvershell. He told the kits that about the animals they were named after, and they went crazy! It really messed with their egos," she explained. Hazelpaw nodded in understanding as she watched the two. Amberkit eventually sighed, as Timberfall bursted out of nowhere and tackled Bearkit. Foxkit cheered her father on, until he whipped around and pinned her. Their laughter could be heard across camp.

"I would've given anything to have a father like that.."

"No, Amberkit! You're lucky. You've don't have a father over your shoulder all day, making sure you're alright. It's actually *really annoying*," Hazelpaw exasperated, glaring Amberkit. *Is she crazy?* But Amberkit wasn't crazy, just alone.

"No. It wouldn't be annoying for me," Amberkit sighed. Looking for Sootfall was useless. He took the dawn patrol each morning, than went hunting in the evening. Sootfall stopped by frequently when she was a kit, then stopped coming as she grew older.

Amberkit never knew her mother and siblings. She never saw them. All she remembered was Stonepaw, Hazelpaw and Silvershell. Hazelpaw's mother and siblings also passed, but she didn't talk about it.

Meanwhile, Oceanheart was drinking from the fresh water that the cave provided. He lapped it up, then sat in silence, staring back at his reflection. When he saw another face beside him.

"Timberfall!" He exclaimed in surprise. He thought he was spending the morning with his kits.

"Hey. The kits got bored of playing with me. They said I was 'no fun," he said with a chuckle. "How are you?"

"Fine. Getting back into the hang of things, has been hard," Oceanheart explained, not making direct eye contact with his friend. He was too afraid of losing his composure.

"Is that all? You know I'm always here for you..."

"It's..." Oceanheart struggled to say. He finally took a breath before admitting, "It's Palesky."

"Oh."

"I thought that after Thunderstar was killed. I'd feel satisfied.. I'd be happy, but I'm not. She was murdered, unjustly, and I never.." Oceanheart stopped, feeling childish. *Timberfall doesn't want to hear your whining.*

"You never what?"

"Got to say goodbye," he murmured, glancing back into the black abyss of the pool. Timberfall sighed, not knowing how to comfort his friend.

"She was a great warrior.."

"She was amazing. She would've been deputy one day," Oceanheart whispered, feeling his throat quench. He took a deep breath before coming to his paws. "I've got to go. I think I'm on a hunting patrol

today.." Oceanheart left without another glance to Timberfall.

"Oceanheart, Silvershell, Aurapaw and Phantompaw, will go on a hunting patrol. Duskfall, Hazelpaw, Stonepaw, and Frogpaw, are on patrol with me, today!" Fairshade announced. Beside him was Duskfall, who were also coming. "Commitpaw is on cleaning duty today!"

"What for!" She called out, in a scowl.

"You put Tidefur in the Medicine cat den!" Fairshade reminded her with a glare.

"It's not my fault he couldn't swim!"

Hazelpaw gave Amberkit friendly flick of the tail, before trotting off to join the patrol. It was her first time going on an actual border patrol, but she had high hopes.

The group took off into the the sunny day, heading for the western border that shared with MountainClan. It was the main border and the one they needed to inspect most often. The forest wasn't as cold as it was in the past moons of leaf-bare. Fairshade suspected Green-leaf would be early this year.

Navigating their way under the pine trees near camp, they smelled the woodsy scent that belonged to MountainClan. CaveClan maintained the smell of their cave, a musty scent that was home to them. LakeClan had a potent smell of the fish water, and StoneClan had an airy smell of bird and stone that wasn't as definite as the rest.

But as Duskfall inhaled the scents of the wind, she smelt something very different than anything she had. *It's not prey. It's not a cat.*

"Fairshade!" She called urgently. "Do you smell that?" Down the hill, Fairshade turned to face Duskfall, up hill. He inhaled the air, and smelled the same scent.

"Yeah... I don't know what it is," he replied quietly.

"I do! It's a twoleg.. and... Something else," Frogpaw said hastily.

Hazelpaw and Stonepaw glanced at each other, before moving closer to the rest of the group. None of them, except Frogpaw, had ever seen a twoleg.

"We need to attack now, before it sees us! Before it comes to the camp," Duskfall said urgently, facing Fairshade. He frowned, uncertain of what action to take.

"I mean no disrespect, Duskfall. But there are far too many twolegs in this world. Even if you successfully attacked one, it would come back and bring more!" Frogpaw argued.

"Then we kill it!" Duskfall snapped, when a distant bark was heard. They exchanged panicked glances, knowing what a bark meant.

"We can't kill a dog, and a twoleg!" Frogpaw exasperated, trying to reason with her. Duskfall shook her head, and flexed her claws.

"Can they scent us?"

"The wind is blowing east, but dogs are great at smelling. We will have to run back through the creek and to camp.."

"Let's go. Before it gets here," Fairshade finally decided, trotting toward the nearby creek. Duskfall scoffed, irritably.

"We can't just-"

"We will. If you attack against my orders, I'll have you stripped of your warrior name. We can't risk losing CaveClan, again," Fairshade stated, adamantly. The patrol washed their pelts in the creek, before racing back to camp. Duskfall trailed behind, only because Fairshade was deputy.

Nothing will threaten my clan and family, ever again. Duskfall vowed to herself that day.

When CaveClan went on lockdown, a twoleg hiked up the mountain with her husband, and Pug and Saint Benard, who followed eagerly.

"It's just a squirrel, Nutmeg!" The woman said, tugging her Bernard's leash tightly. Nutmeg glanced into the trees, looking for sign of the

threat, but it disappeared. She turned back up the hill, following them.

Meanwhile, Sugar glanced at the trees with a smirk. *Those aren't squirrels. Those are warriors.*

As you can see, the picture attached is the new and improved map! I designed it and sorry LakeClan, for your *pitiful* willow tree...

I'll let you decide. Shall we skip to the half moon, or wait until chapter 28, and add more content in these days?

Chapter 26

[image]

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior)

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Expecting Tallcloud's kits.

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Expecting Suntail's kits.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior)

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette)

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-)

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Kits:
Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 4 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 4 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 4 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 4 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 2 moons.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 2 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 2 moons.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 1 moon.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes.

(wxrriorcatsforlife)

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy)

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

"Badgerclaw," Moondust said, peering through the warrior's den. In the corner nest, was her mate, snoring away the morning. She crawled over the other cats and sat beside him, prodding at him.

"What is it?" He moaned, opening a signal eye.

"I need to speak with you. *Alone*." At her words, Badgerclaw sensed the urgency. He sat up, blinking, before following her out. They walked a few paces from camp, before Moondust collapsed in tears.

"I'm sorry," she cried. Badgerclaw gazed into her teary eyes, with panic. *What's happened?*

"Moondust!"

"It's Owlkit. Something's wrong with him. He doesn't speak, he doesn't answer when he's called. Coalkit shrieks through the night, but Owlkit doesn't flinch..."

"What're you saying," Badgerclaw prompted carefully. She looked at him, slowly composing herself.

"He's deaf," she muttered. Badgerclaw became stunned, in realization. Of course, older cats became deaf and blind, but not kits.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes! It's been almost three moons," she sniffled.

"It's alright. He'll be alright!" Badgerclaw tried to assure her.

"No! Don't you see? He can never hunt, take orders, and he can't learn how to speak. He'll be fumbling through this clan without a clue. The other kits already pick on him... I don't need other clans doing the same..."

"What do you suggest we do!" He demanded. "He's still my son."

"We give him away. Send him somewhere safe. Perhaps... Twolegs?"

"No. I lived with twolegs. He's our son and we won't abandon him," Badgerclaw was adamant. He loved his children. All of them.

"What then! Because I'm out of ideas," she whimpered. She didn't want her son to leave, but she couldn't imagine the horrible things that would happen to him if he stayed.

"RogueClan... RogueClan could take him. Train him."

"They can't even train themselves," Moondust scowled.

"They're different. They are all outcasts. They will accept him and find a way to help him. At least, I know Ink will. Please. Let's try," Badgerclaw pleaded with her.

"Alright. Just tell me when," she breathed. Badgerclaw walked back into camp, full of anxiety and pressure when greeted by Finchfeather.

"Morning huh?"

"Yeah," he chuckled, looking across camp. He spotted Howlingkit playing with Coalkit and Cragkit, while Blossumkit was giggling nearby with Skykit. And by a puddle, sat Owlkit all alone, as he gazed into it.

Finchfeather noticed this too. She didn't particularly like Moondust's kits. They were loud, bratty and strange. *Moondust doesn't deserve him.*

"Alright! Today, border patrol is Ottertail, Hiddencreek, Drizzlecloud and Winterleaf. The first hunting patrol is Badgerclaw, Cougarfur and Finchfeather. That's all for now," Rockfall announced.

Immediately, cats began their duties without much further ado. However, Drizzlecloud was struggling.

"Keep up, Drizzlecloud!"

The gray tom was padding through the reeds on a border patrol, and the older warriors were not cutting him any slack. He was constantly sinking into the mud and getting pebbles stuck in his paws. Now when he had tripped over a mossy log the patrol leader, Hiddencreek, was shouting at him again.

"You can't see anything in this ridiculous bank," he mumbled impatiently. Then he sighed and continued on after the cats. Winterleaf followed behind Hiddencreek and Ottertail.

"You'll get used to it. You can ask Dragonstone, myself or anyone for help if you need it! Between us, Hiddencreek is just not a morning person," Winterleaf explained. Drizzlecloud glanced over curious to know more so Winterleaf eagerly supplied.

"Why Dragonstone?" He asked. The name felt strange on his tongue. Drizzlecloud had never heard of a dragon before.

"Mistyshine was an apprentice when he came so it was a while ago before they were mates. He took forever to adjust to the fish diet though," she paused laughing. "One time he spent a whole day sitting on a rock waiting at a hole for a vole to come because he refused to eat anything else. My dad, Rockfall, had to get out on the night border patrol to bring him back empty pawed."

Drizzlecloud broke into a grin at the story. Winterleaf however was laughing as memories of new cats adjusting to the Lake clan lifestyle.

"You should've seen Rainpool though!" She started again but Drizzlecloud was already loosing focus. He had a reason to be in the clan. He had not come for a new fresh start like these other refugees. Instead he had to make it in this new home otherwise, he was lost. His life would be hollow.

"Hey, you okay?" the white she-cat inquired watching the tribe cat with wide concerned eyes.

Drizzlecloud cleared his throat and nodded in answer. Although she retained doubt in her eyes Winterleaf forced a polite smile. "Good," she meowed. "We need to keep open eyes on our borders."

"Hey, you two chatty chipmunks!" Ottertail shouted over his shoulder. Winterleaf and Drizzlecloud to quicken their place until they reached the other two warriors.

"What is it?" Drizzlecloud asked Hiddencreek, who was standing still staring at the dirt in front of him.

"This is it," he sighed. Drizzlecloud understood immediately. After Shadowstar and Zodiacpelt had passed, Aspenfur, Bluewisp and

Sprucestrike had brought their bodies to LakeClan, for proper burial. Now the two she-cats were resting under near the shore, and forever feeling the gentle river breeze from the bank.

Winterleaf looked at the older time sadly. "Can I stay here for a while? Zodiacpelt was older than me but I still want to say my final goodbye." *I never got the chance before she left...* She added internally.

Hiddencreek nodded understandably and waved the other time back. A few paces away Drizzlecloud shot a confused glance at the warriors. "Where's your memorial?"

"Our what?" Ottertail asked with narrowed eyes. Hiddencreek glanced at him before Drizzlecloud. His expression asked for a further explanation.

"In my tribe when I cat passed onto the Tribe of Endless Hunting, we would commemorate an object toward them. Sometimes the family would place a rock structure to mark the spot. Others would construct more elaborate memorials for the graves. Do you not do this as well?" He questioned looking at Ottertail and Hiddencreek. Both shook their heads.

"Well we should do it. Shadowstar was a strong leader and Zodiacpelt helped us all with her friendship. They need to be remembered by more than the cats of this generation," Winterleaf declared. Drizzlecloud nodded.

"I saw something on the way over that could serve the purpose," he informed her, turning around.

The three warriors followed Drizzlecloud until they reached a red plant. It had many small leaves protruding from a long thin stalk but it was soft to the touch.

"It's a red fern. A strong plant, for two strong she cats," Drizzlecloud declared triumphantly. Winterleaf trotted forward to examine it closer. Pawing the unusual plant a few times she turned back to the gray tom.

"How could we move it to the graves, though?"

Pausing to think for a moment Drizzlecloud lit up with an idea. His tail fluffed slightly from excitement he dashed into the boggy terrain. The other cats exchanged glances before following to tom.

Leaping over reeds and rocks Drizzlecloud led them toward the center of LakeClan until he suddenly stopped. Ottertail caught the momentum change too late though plowed into the back of the current leader of the patrol. Drizzlecloud glanced back at him.

"Sorry, Driz," the brown tom apologized sheepishly. Drizzlecloud just stepped forward and waited until Winterleaf and Hiddencreek had gathered with them. Hiddencreek glanced at Ottertail for an explanation but the tom simply shrugged.

"Okay Drizzlecloud, you brought us out here," Hiddencreek sighed.

Drizzlecloud however was unnerved as he pushed forward a log into the midst of the cats with his nose. Then with his paws he flipped it over to show that it was broken in half and hollow. "We can carry the fern back to graves with this," he explained smiling proud of him discovery. The other cats glanced around uncertain.

"I guess it's worth a try," Winterleaf finally agreed and then smile on Drizzlecloud grew a little. Before anyone else could say anything, Drizzlecloud leaned down to push the log back to the graves. After a few minutes of sneezing and huffing Ottertail stopped the group.

"We can still see where we came from. We need a better plan."

"Alright you carry it," Winterleaf suggested and Ottertail surprised them all by trotting up to the gray tribe cat. With a motion of him tail he sent him away. Then he shoved his nose under the log and threw his head up. The log lifted and Ottertail shoved his muzzle under it. He repeated this two more times then stood up so the log fell onto his back.

"You look like a turtle!" Winterleaf giggled but Ottertail walked past with his tail high.

"Problem fixed," he declared and lead them all back to the red fern.

The cats quickly dug up the fern and lifted it with their teeth onto the log which Ottertail had placed on the ground.

Together the four cats pushed the log. Three pushed with their noses to the wood while the last cat cleared the path of rocks and sticks. Finally they arrived back at the graves of Shadowstar and Zodiacpelt.

"We made it," Winterleaf meowed before collapsing onto the ground. Hiddencreek rolled his eyes and turned to Drizzlecloud.

"So what now?" Drizzlecloud was standing in between the two graves and glanced up shortly at the question.

"We dig, of course," he stated simply and began to scrape away at a spot between the graves. Ottertail padded over to help and soon there was a large hole into which Hiddencreek and Winterleaf rolled the fern into. Then all three messily kicked the dirt back onto.

"We are never going to plant anything ever again," Ottertail panted surveying their work. The fern had lost many branches and had ripped stalks and leaves everywhere, but it's served the purpose. Now LakeClan would always have a memorial for the deaths of their leader and friend.

"So, it's a democrasee?"

"Democracy. Yes! An easy one," Llewyn assured Flamestar. They had made it to MountainClan and were now, pitching their idea.

As usual, the deputy and leader exchanged glances, which filled Llewyn with an uneasy filling. It was extremely hard to tell if they even remotely liked the idea.

"So..."

"I sorta like it. But is it necessary? Don't we have enough laws and rules? Do we need a committee to do this? And why special representatives? Why not leaders?" Flamestar asked many questions which Llewyn attempted to answer.

"Flamestar, this is a system which could last past the clans themselves. There's no telling the advances and possibilities cats could take with this.."

"I'm sorry. But it's too.."

"I like it!" Bushwind exclaimed from the corner. Flamestar and Suntail turned to the medicine cat, who sat in on the discussion. "Say, we could call ourselves the cats of America!"

"Of what?"

"Thank you Bushwind. We do need to know, before we leave, if you will support this. It is crucial that we have the support of the four leaders," Llewyn explained, trying to keep things moving. Suntail seemed for the idea, but whether Flamestar was.

"Yeah! Let's do it," Flamestar decided, quite suddenly. Llewyn sighed in relief then faced her.

"Thank you so much!"

"So cats of what, again?"

"Uh, we best not continue that story. It's far too long..."

WildUntilTheEnd wrote a the red fern section. We thank you with endless gratitude.

And I continually thank you all for joining me, on this long and heart-wrenching journey of these cats.

From now on, let me know what clan, group, or cat you want to read about in the next chapter. Don't worry about plot, that's my job. It might give me more inspiration if everyone wanted to read about Llewyn for a whole chapter. (Please. Let's not.)

There is a problem with notifications. Some of you aren't receiving the updates notifications. If so, don't panic. Check back everything three days. I may post an update on my page to you guys. Let's just

pray Wattpad fixes this bug soon.

Chapter 27

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes. (MuttonButtonForLife)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (Yamaraj)

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Apprentices:
Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. Mentor: Sharpwing

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Sprucestrike

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetstar

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Bluefinch

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her

back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories)

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117)

Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (LPsNerdy) 1 moon.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 1 moon.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green

eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Kits:

Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 4 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 4 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 4 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 4 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 2 moons.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 2 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 2 moons.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 1 moon.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife)

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy)

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (Numies_Yums_Numies)

RogueClan-
Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Maple- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

A smell of blood and must, overwhelmed her. She rose her head to the dark cavern, and glanced around. Her sight was still blurry, until she spotted the moonlight that filtered in from outside.

Nearby, Snakefoot lie, absorbed in his dreams.

Vinepaw tried to sit up, but a sharp pain came from her rear, and her left leg. She glanced back, and saw that her tail, was gone. Her eyes gazed frantically over it. *Tails don't disappear*.

"Snakefoot," she rasped. The medicine cat shot up, realizing she was awake. "What happened? Where's my tail?"

"Calm down," he said softly. He propped himself up, before continuing with an explanation. "You were bit by a venomous snake. Your left leg was also dislocated. To safe you from the

venom, Poisonberry had to take your tail.."

"How long have I been here?"

"You've been resting two days."

"Darn," she muttered. She hated that she missed two training days already, and now, she would be even more behind. "How will I run?" She stammered. Her tail was made for balance. She needed it to be a warrior.

"You'll learn. It's not as hard as you think. Sleetstar, Earthfoot and Mudkit share nubs for tails. Except, theirs are genetic," Snakefoot explained.

"Where's my family? Is Dreampaw alright?" Vinepaw asked immediately.

"Everything's fine. Your family is sleeping like the rest of the clan. You should be able to continue your training tomorrow," Snakefoot said with a small smile. "But, you should know. Russetpaw and Dreampaw are both facing punishment."

"Oh."

"Sleetstar placed a new rule. Those training must focus on becoming a warrior before they can have a mate... It's almost dawn, why don't you eat some prey," he strongly recommended. Vinepaw nodded, feeling a hungry pit in her belly, before rising out of her best, and slowly walking out of the den. Gradually, her leg became less stiff and easier to walk on. There was a strange phantom pain where her tail used to be, but nothing she couldn't manage.

As she grabbed a shrew from the pile, when she spotted Bluefinch and Fernpaw keeping watch. They also spotted her and quickly trotted over.

"Vinepaw! How are you?" Fernpaw exclaimed with a smile. She sighed.

"Alright. I'm a little sore," she replied.

"You're very brave Vinepaw. A lot of cats couldn't endure what you had to," Bluefinch praised. Vinepaw was flattered, but didn't really believe the older she cat's words.

"I was asleep the whole time. I didn't feel anything," she said.

"Good luck today," Bluefinch said before she crossed to the fresh-kill pile herself. Fernpaw glanced at Vinepaw with wide eyes.

"I can't believe you guys snuck out of camp..."

"I know," Vinepaw murmured. She regretted a lot of it now.

"No! That you didn't invite me!" Fernpaw exclaimed with a grin. Vinepaw chuckled before biting into her shrew. "No really. How many cats have you met, that have gone into the Lost Forest and survived?"

"My father. Sleetstar. Poisonberry. A lot more," Vinepaw listed off.

"I don't mean it that way!" She giggled before glancing over to the fresh-kill pile. "I'm gonna go get prey. See you later!"

Vinepaw watched her walk over to the pile. Even though Fernpaw was a moon or two older than her, she was much taller and more muscular than the petite she cat. Thinking, Vinepaw didn't notice Dreampaw walk up behind her.

"Vinepaw," she began quietly. Vinepaw whipped around to face Dreampaw. Her friend was saddened, but Vinepaw could hardly care.

"What," she snapped irritably.

"I'm sorry about.."

"No you're not! You didn't get your tail bit off. You didn't miss two days of training. *You... did it.. with Russetpaw*," she hissed in a hushed tone. She was filled with disgust.

"No! Russetpaw isn't like that. He... He just acts that way to hide his grief. Both his parents are dead, and you've heard the rumors..."

Vinepaw gave her a clueless expression, and Dreampaw's eyes widened.

"Oh Vinepaw. They say he's not Thunderstar's kit, and that's why he got Dustystripe for a mentor instead of Thunderstar... He's half-clan... He was never StormClan to begin with," Dreampaw whispered.

"That doesn't change the fact that he is a fox hearted piece of.."

"You don't know him!" Dreampaw roared out of nowhere. If cats weren't awake before her statement, they definitely rose at the level of her voice. However, Dreampaw quickly composed herself in embarrassment. Bluewisp taught her better.

"Just go," Vinepaw said coldly. Dreampaw didn't argue, but she could sense her old friend was upset. As Dreampaw slipped back into the apprentice's den, Ivorypaw came out, followed by Wildpaw.

Vinepaw spotted her sister, laughing with the other apprentice, until she spotted her. They both froze as their gazed met each other's, and Ivorypaw barreled over to her. Ivorypaw tackled her sister, but Vinepaw always got the upper hand.

"I was getting worried.."

"No. You were flirting," Vinepaw smirked as she glanced over to Wildpaw. Ivorypaw squirmed out of her sister's grip, terribly flustered.

"Am not!" She denied in a hushed tone. Ivorypaw quickly changed the subject after that. "How's it feel?"

"Not as bad as when I woke. I'll survive," Vinepaw replied as if her tail being gnawed off, was no big deal.

"Quick. We need to find Poisonberry and see if she'll take us hunting. I wanna show you what I learned, and you need to practice!" Ivorypaw declared with a smile.

"Sounds good."

Vinepaw continued her training, as the day went by, peacefully in StoneClan. Except for her confrontation with Dreampaw, everything had gone smoothly. Russetpaw was so deep in den duties, that he didn't have time to speak to anyone.

Around the lake, RogueClan was resting on the shore of CaveClan. In their particular area, there were no trees. Instead there was a field of tall, dry grass that blew in the wind.

Shadow lied in the sand of the shore, not caring whether the sand clotted in his thick fur. While Lynch and Llewyn headed to ask CaveClan for their decision, the others sat in the warm rays of the sun, trying to think of an activity to waste the time.

"We could go hunting," Lostpath grumbled. Shadow rolled his eyes. *Lostpath is such a grump*. The tom was getting old, and wasn't as nearly creative as the rest of the cats.

"That's no fun, silly!" Ink declared, as she got to her paws. She paced back and forth.

"Killing things is very fun..."

"You're sadistic," Maple grunted.

"Thank you," Lostpath said with a grin

"I know! Let's swim across the lake!" Ink purposed with a grand smile. Her eyes were lit with purpose but the others shook their heads.

"Why would we need to?" Bone asked.

"Why would we want to?" Maple chuckled. "We left for a reason.."

"You're ridiculous. Shadow?" Ink said, turning to him with a grin. He sighed.

"Maybe. Since your so stubborn. But I don't know how to swim.."

"Your mother was Skystar, queen of the lake, and you don't know how to swim!"

"She left before I was an apprentice," he said quietly.

"Oh," Ink said softly. After the long silence, he sat up and glared back at her.

"What?"

"Well. Are we going to swim?" Shadow asked with a small smirk. Her eyes lit once more and she joined him at the waterline.

Ink walked straight into the water, before immersing herself, than resurfacing. She swam easily, but chattered at the chilled water. Realizing swimming across the lake, may have its faults, she swam back and crawled into the sand.

"You look horrible," Shadow teased, noticing her puffed back was held down with water, along with the rest of her fur. Ink narrowed her eyes than motioned toward the water.

"Your turn."

Shadow sighed, accepting the challenge. He walked forward into the depths. He noticed how his longer fur soaked in the water and made it harder for him to walk on the bottom. Continuing, he shortly lost the lake bottom and had to resort to his swimming technique.

He began kicking and paddling, as ducks often did in the lake, but it failed him. Shadow's head bobbed underwater and he gazed around at his murky surroundings, and wasn't impressed, just frightened.

Not certain that he could return to the surface, he began kicking violently, with no true result. His spectacle became quite the entertainment for the three toms who declined swimming.

However, Ink remained a good sport and ran into the lake, to retrieve him. She dove into the lake, and found Shadow's figure. She took him by the scruff and kicked away, trying to get them both back.

This worked, but they veered to the right, do to the natural drift of the lake.

"I will never... do that again," Shadow coughed as he slopped onto the shore. He was entirely soaked, and cold. Ink however, was throughly amused.

"Never say never," Ink said, before licking his muzzle affectionately. At this, he drew away in shock. *Did she just*.. "What?"

"Why did you do that?" He questioned coldly, coming to his paws.

"Because," she muttered, before bumping her flank against his. "You need it!"

Shadow trotted away, into the nearby trees. He kept going until he reached the LakeClan and CaveClan border. He didn't expect this. He didn't need this. *Brinefur wouldn't do this*...

"Shadow. Are you okay?" Ink's voice asked from a few cat lengths away. Something about her was different. Something about her, changed him. And he told himself, *Brinefur isn't here*.

Whipping around, he faced Ink who was walking toward him cautiously. Before she could say anything, he touched his nose with hers, and he breathed deeply, holding the moment. Shadow broke the moment by licking her muzzle.

"You smell horrible," he said, as the fishy lake scent rose from their pelts.

"So do you," she said as they continued.
The other toms had their suspicions about where the two were, but it only gave them more to tease them over.

By the time Shadow and Ink were finished, it was evening, and they rested beside the nearby river. Their pelts weren't completely dry, but almost there.

The two simply enjoyed the sound of the rushing water, when it was interrupted, but a splash. Ink rose her head to see something crossing the river steadily, with a small piece of prey in their mouth.

When they came closer, she realized, it was a cat, and the prey was

really a crying kit.

"Dad?" Ink exclaimed. She realized that her father may take disdain to Shadow, lying beside her, but she didn't really care. Shadow's head rose, and he stood in alarm.

Badgerclaw reached the shore, and dropped the mewling kit in front of the two. Ink realized it was her half sibling, Owlkit, and faced her father in confusion.

"I need you to take care of him. He's deaf, Ink..."

"So you give him away? How are we supposed to do better?" Ink argued. Badgerclaw didn't reply, but looked toward Shadow.

"You've got intelligent cats. And together, you'll help him more than LakeClan can. I must go. But I'll visit when I can," Badgerclaw explained, touching noses with his daughter and son before diving back into the river, and across.

Shocked, Ink stared at Shadow, than the kit. He was disturbed, and crying in frustration.

"It'll be alright... Maybe Llewyn knows how to raise kits, too?"

"I doubt it... You should probably carry him back," Shadow suggested, knowing that he was not good with kits. Ink nodded, gently picking up her young brother, before they trotted off toward their present camp.

Meanwhile, Llewyn and Lynch and arrived back. By their expressions, Bone could tell it didn't go over well.

"Cinderstar said no. He doesn't believe that making a democracy with solve anything. Not until Hawk is punished for his crimes," Lynch explained to the others, while Llewyn sat in thought. The dark furred tom gazed across the lake, speculating what step to take next.

"He's right though," Lostpath said, uneasily. "You can't make this, until you know the Hawkwatch or whatever is out or inside the lake.. Are they with us? Or against us?"

"That's it!" Llewyn exclaimed, whipping around with wide yellow eyes. "We go to where the Hawkwatch is and convince them to support our democracy!"

"What about the Hawk tom? The clans won't let a murderer slip by," Maple stated. Llewyn nodded in understanding.

"We don't even know that Hawk is still with them..."

"It's named after him," Bone murmured.

"Even so... We have to check. Maybe this Hawk guy, isn't that bad!" Llewyn suggested, gazing at the others. Maple and Bone, who had heard of Hawk's destruction, were still weary. They did not have the time to finish the discussion when Shadow and Ink returned from the east.

"What is that!" Lostpath gasped, knowing, but denying reality. Maple and Bone also seemed to cringe at the sight.

"It's a kit!" Llewyn squealed. Lynch chuckled at the sight while Ink placed him between them.

"He's LakeClan. His name is Owlkit."

"Can we call him Hooters?" Llewyn laughed, knowingly. Ink shook her head.

"You should know, he's deaf.."

"Poor kit..."

"How're we going to help?" Lostpath grunted, eyeballing the little tom. Owlkit looked at Lostpath with wide eyes, before giggling at his face.

"We'll train him," Bone purposed. The others were uncertain, but even rogues, can't say no to kits.

"Welcome to RogueClan, Hooters!"

"You are not naming him, Hooters. It's Owlkit. Or Owl.."

I counted it up recently and we have about 80 owners.

There are tons of new kits in the cat auction. Along with Earthstripe and Shiftclaw whose owners just didn't cut it...

Please vote! Thanks for taking the time to read and comment on this crazy stuff. School is coming, so my nightly writing sprees will have to end.

Spokenwrites A minute after I published this chapter, she voted! You've got cat senses, my friend.

Chapter 28

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Apprentices:
Swiftpaw- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft) Mentor: Sharpwing

Hailpaw- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22) Mentor: Sprucestrike

Hollowpaw- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227) Mentor: Sleetstar

Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette) Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her

back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories)

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117)

Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (LPsNerdy) 1 moon.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 1 moon.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green

eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Queens:
Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline) Kits: Duckkit (Tom), Butterflykit (she cat), Flickerkit (she cat), and Heronkit (Tom)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Kits:

Duckkit- a ginger and white furred Tom with Amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) 4 moons.

Butterflykit- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) 4 moons.

Flickerkit- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght) 4 moons.

Heronkit- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) 4 moons.

Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 2 moons.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 2 moons.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 1 moon.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 1 moon.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife)

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy)

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

Bravekit and Mudkit squeaked as they noticed Duskwater, was the first awake. Racing over to her, they leaped onto the warrior and dragged her to the ground.

"Play with us!" Mudkit demanded.

"What're playing?" Duskwater grinned. She liked to drop by the nursery and tease the kits, who were so easily entertained.

"You're the badger! And we're the Warriors! Die badger!" Brave kit declared ramming his head into her flank. She felt nothing, although she was greatly amused.

"Where's your mother?"

"Sleeping," Bravekit replied.

"Shouldn't you be?" Duskwater challenged.

"No! We want to play!" Mudkit declared as he clung to her fur.

"What about Twistedfoot's kits? Surely they'll want to play..."

"Mommy said we shouldn't wake them or play too much with them. She doesn't want us to hurt them, because they're smaller," Mudkit explained with a gloomy glance. He really enjoyed the company of the other two kits, but Tigerstorm was always so careful.

"I'm sure if you ask Tigerstorm nicely, she'll allow it," Duskwater assured them with a smile.

"Mommy is a warrior! A scary warrior," Bravekit whispered. Duskwater chuckled at this.

"You two will be big and awesome warriors someday. So, act like it!" She said before leaving the two in their thoughts. Eventually they shared glances then continued playing.

Duskwater crossed to the prey pile where Brightfire contemplated her meal.

"Eat the thrush," she advised. "I caught that last night.

"That's what I thought... But..." Brightfire murmured. From the looks of it, her friend was stuck in other thoughts.

"What?" Duskwater prompted, taking the thrush for herself.

"Is it wrong to love a cat?"

"No."

"Even if, he's not like me," she muttered, yearning for answers. *I can't tell her...*

"Lots of cats are different. Who are you pursuing now?" Duskwater asked with a grin. Brightfire peered at her with wide eyes, then closed them, flustered. "Is it Airflight?"

"No!" She immediately said, in distaste. "He and Cedarlily were so close. I never got to know him."

"Alright. Then who is it?"

"I can't say. Everyone would hate me. Dustystripe would kill me.."

"Your brother isn't that bad," Duskwater commented mildly. Her brother was quite the tom. Built like a warrior, but he had a bright golden pelt similar to his sister's. Duskwater hadn't quite thought of him that way, until that moment.

"Oh my LightClan, you like him!" Brightfire whispered in a gasp. Thinking about it, didn't give Brightfire a pleasant image. However, she had always wanted the best for her clanmates.

"No.. No. This isn't about me. This is about *this mystery tom...*"

"Fine. But we have to go somewhere quiet," Brightfire murmured, spotting Wildpaw and Ivorypaw, who were stretching outside the apprentice's den. Soon, the clan would wake and all flock to the fresh-kill pile.

"I hope we don't do battle training. I was horrible, yesterday," Ivorypaw told Wildpaw.

"Yeah. You were pretty bad," he grinned.

"Hey!" She called him out and he flicked his tail, at her.

Overhearing them, Brightfire couldn't help but laugh. So young. So blind.

"So. You were saying," Duskwater prompted as soon as they were several cat-lengths away from their clanmates.

"He's not... StoneClan..."

"Oh no."

"What?" Brightfire asked obviously. Duskwater shifted. *This is bigger than I thought.*

"We're you here the other night? When Sleetstar announced StoneClan's mating laws?"

"I was... with him.."

"Well. After what Russetpaw and Dreampaw pulled the other day, she needed to clarify the law. A cat of StoneClan cannot mate until they are a warrior. Medicine cats cannot have a mate, Snakefoot was the one who instituted that. And most importantly, a StoneClan cat is forbidden to mate with another clan cat. If he's from another clan, you're both fox dung," she said sadly. Duskwater cleared her mind. *The law is the law.*

"But... Sleetstar and Twistedfoot both had rogues as mates.."

"Rogue is not the same as another clan cat. Rogue-blood, is new blood that comes with no price. A litter of Mixed- Clan kits, could cause war. And that's the last thing Sleetstar or any StoneClan cat wants," Duskwater stated strongly. Brightfire nodded but glanced away, avoiding Duskwater's eyes. "I'm sorry."

"Me too," Brightfire replied sharply, before sauntering away.

Meanwhile, far away, Burrclaw was focused on entertaining the many kits of the LakeClan.

The clan had been thrown into hysteria when Owlkit went missing. Many patrols were sent out to search for the kit, but any tracks had been washed away by the former night's rain.

To keep the kits away from the issue, they placed them in Burrclaw's care while some of the queens hunted and the Warriors searched. Neither kits nor Burrclaw were happy with the decisions, until he mentioned a story.

"Rogue legends, are not for the faint hearted," Burrclaw warned the many kits. Almost all of them except Skykit, guarded by her protective mother, were huddled around the elder with wide eyes.

"I'm big enough!" Coalkit squealed before Duckkit laughed loudly. The older kit jabbed Coalkit in the side and he fell to the ground.

"You're the size of a minnow! You'll never be as big as me," he mocked. Unlike Troutkit, who would usually ignore Duckkit's comments, Coalkit took this seriously. The gray kit's eyes narrowed and he pounced forward, but was stopped by his brother who cut in front of him.

"Cragkit," Coalkit hissed, staring at his brother.

"Do you want to hear this or not?" Burrclaw snapped. The elder wasn't old, but wasn't particularly motivated when it came to work.

Burrclaw's job was to watch after camp, and it came easy to him when he sat around all day. He was also coordinator when it came to battle training, but Ottertail, Mistyshine and Hiddencreek gradually became better at teaching it.

"Yes!" The kits said unanimously.

"Well... There were three cats. Three mean and cruel cats, who held the power of the stars in their paws. They were heroes, however, but it took many moons for them to stop being mousebrains..."

"Why were they mean?" Flickerkit asked quietly. Burrclaw frowned, not quite sure what it meant either.

"Two were self-absorbed in their future mates, and one was a very

grumpy medicine cat with no friends, except a stick. But stories say, they each had special powers... *Very*... Scary powers," he whispered in a menacing manner. This sent shudders through the kits' spines.

"Like what?"

"One of them... Could supposedly, never be defeated in battle... And another, could see into cat's dreams!" Burrclaw exclaimed. Mistkit gasped and looked to her sister Scalykit. Both were fully engaged in the story.

"This story is stupid. Cats don't have powers!" Duckkit declared with smirk. Burrclaw narrowed his eyes and glared at the oldest kit.

"No it's not!" Flickerkit argued. "Tell us more about them.."

"No, no.. It is a stupid story. What good stories do you have?" Burrclaw challenged Duckkit who held a smug expression. He puffed out his chest and began.

"Once there was a mother duck who had a litter of six. But one of the ducklings, was so ugly..."

"That's a bad word!" Scalykit yelled. The older kits chuckled and Duckkit continued.

"Nobody wanted to be around the ugly duckling and his family... Abandoned him... Then he died," Duckkit laughed glancing toward his brother.

"That was not a good story," Mistkit whispered to her siblings. The gray she kit, bounced away. *The older kits are no fun*.

"You're strange kits. All of you," Burrclaw declared, flicking Duckkit on the nose. Duckkit hissed, before Burrclaw rose to his paws, and headed toward the fresh-kill pile. Duckkit turned to Coalkit, with a scowl.

"You're dirt-blood, ya know!"

Coalkit immediately hissed, while Duckkit and Butterflykit laughed. Flickerkit frowned. *Why does he have to be so cruel?*

"No I'm not!"

"Yes you are. That's why you have no father and your mother spends more time hunting than with you!"

"That's not true," Cragkit snapped. Flickerkit nodded along with the kit, Duckkit's joke had gone to far.

Cragkit turned to Coalkit. "Let's go," he urged. The two brothers reluctantly ran off to nearby reeds, where they could take privacy.

"I hate them. They all laugh at me," Coalkit scowled.

"They laugh at *us*."

"All because Silverfeather won't tell us who our father is... The other kits say it's Hiddencreek, and she left our mom for Rainpool.."

"That's not true. Hiddencreek is not our father," Cragkit said adamantly.

"How do you know?" Coalkit cornered with a scoff. Cragkit sighed.

"I can just tell."

"Well if he is, *I'm gonna kill Skykit*."

"Come on. Let's go play in the puddle. When we're better swimmers than Duckkit, he'll never mess with us again," Cragkit suggested with a wide grin. He always saw the bright side of things.

Coalkit rolled his eyes. *I'll be better than them. Especially when they're dead.*

Sorry for waiting more than a week to publish. School started once again.

Long list of announcements:

Now that their drama filled juvenile moons are over, I have decided to give away the two most precious toms, closest to my hearts.

Besides the ones I killed, of course. Spiderstar. Redstar. Horsetail. Yeah, remember them!

Here they are...

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has amber eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Brothers. Both are destined to be leaders one day, and could make great strides for their clans... Or ruin them. I honestly prefer the great strides, in this instance.

I have been fostering then from the beginning because of their tricky and unforeseen destinies, but now, we turn the reigns to two lucky individuals.

To win one of these toms. You must do the following in the comments...
Write a semi-long poetic speech, song, epic or something, explaining the inner struggles of the brother and a follow up on why you'd love to have him. I choose the winner.

Entry is officially closed again.
But Cat auction is booming as usual.

I remind new people that you must read and vote for (if you enjoy), everything. Don't just catch up to the latest chapter, or skip the ones your cat isn't in.

Yes. It's been awhile since I've updated but don't ask when I'm updating or I will smack you upside the head through this screen. I'm the author. You're the reader.

I'm so sorry to report that four chapters are missing. Chapters 2, 15,16, and 17 have all returned to their former drafts in an unusual and frustrating bug. I cannot simply rewrite them. I am waiting to see if the new app fixes it, or if they come back over time. But Wattpad help center has not provided a method that will.

If anyone remembered everything that happened in those chapters!

That'd be great if you could let me know. Because if the finished versions don't return, I'll have to write four chapter over again and probably leave out a lot.

Chapter 29

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 1 moon.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 1 moon.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 1 moon.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 1 moon.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 1 moon.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 1 moon.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 1 moon.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. 1 moon.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Frogheart- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian)

Apprentices:
Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Tidefur

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor: Silvershell

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (Starshine28) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hazelpaw- a fluffy brown furred she cat with amber eyes. (SeasonSnow) Mentor: Silentcry

Amberpaw- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) Mentor: Duskfall

Queens:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (KittyQueenofRandom) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud) Kit: Icekit (Tom)

Kits:
Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 3 moons.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 3 moons.

Icekit- a young white and brown tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) 2 moon.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Apprentices:
Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and

one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette) Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (LPsNerdy) 1 moon.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 1 moon.

Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 1 moon.

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 1 moon.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Expecting Dragonstone's kits.

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Butterflypaw- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) Mentor: Winterleaf

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Apprentices:
Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 3 moons.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 3 moons.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 2 moons.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 2 moons.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 1 moon.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 1 moon.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

"Frogheart! Frogheart! Frogheart!" CaveClan cheered together. The tom smiled in a flustered state. He was exuberant with happiness as his clan-mates congratulated him.

"It's been long overdo," Amberpaw said after Hazelpaw said congrats. Amberpaw knew the feeling of having to wait. *Waiting for answers. Waiting to train. Waiting for a father*. She couldn't help but glance over to Sootfall who quietly discussed something with

Oceanheart.

"Congrats to you to! It must be great to finally start your training," Frogheart said with a smile. Amberpaw nodded.

"Are you coming, or not? You heard Cinderstar, the gathering can't wait," Duskfall reminded them bluntly. She headed after the patrol. Frogheart eagerly followed them out of camp.

Meanwhile, Hazelpaw exchanged glances with Amberpaw. Her friend had just had her apprentice ceremony and Duskfall, was named her mentor. Neither of the she cats were ecstatic about it.

"You better go. Stonepaw and I are hanging out here with Earthstripe, Timberfall.."

"See you later!" Amberpaw said before racing after her mentor. It was her first time out of camp as an apprentice, and her first gathering. She planned to make the most of her opportunity. *Who knows what the other clan cats are like...*

Amberpaw heard rumored that StoneClan had claws of steel, and LakeClan could breath underwater. She was skeptical but still intrigued to meet them. She had already spent time with MountainClan refuges, when she was very young. Other than that, she never had exposure to the other cats of the lake.

As CaveClan set off to the open fields, where the second gathering would be hosted, the other clans set off as well. StoneClan had set off at noon, to make sure they would make it in time. Their patrol was smaller than the others, since their clan was the largest and they had a large distance to travel.

Sleetstar was particularly excited for the night's gathering. In the past moon, they had made more progress, than expected. Now, she had to advocate for Llewyn's peace plan. RogueClan was not expected, as they were not a formal clan and did not follow LightClan, so a leader would have to represent them.

"Are you ready, Hollowflame?" Sleetstar asked with a grin. Her apprentice and her sons had been made warriors, only a few days

ago. The tall she cat glanced to Sleetstar, and chuckled.

"I don't know. It's going to be strange to see everyone again. Don't you think?" Hollowflame said.

"Yes. Very strange," Sleetstar sympathized.

"Will RogueClan be there?" Hollowflame asked abruptly. Sleetstar shrugged, and peered at her curiously.

"Why do you ask?"

"Well. My mom dedicated her last moons to RogueClan. I thought... Meeting the cats wouldn't hurt..."

"I'm sure they'll come around soon enough. But, I don't believe RogueClan could offer any closure," Sleetstar replied carefully. *Would they even remember Maliceflame?* She wondered silently.

"It's not... I'm fine," Hollowflame declared adamantly. "I'm just curious. That's all."

Sleetstar didn't reply and instead, focused on their path ahead. Mingled scents hit her nose and she inhaled them deeply. *All present, except for MountainClan.*

"Sleetstar!" Flamestar greeted her, as soon as her and her clanmates came in sight. She smiled, meeting Flamestar's warm eyes.

"I hope we're not too late.."

"Of course not. This is a gathering, there is no time limit," she replied.

"Well. Dawn is a nice goal," Cinderstar suggested, as he trotted up to them.

"Then it shall be. We must get back by dawn," Sleetstar chuckled. She glanced back to her warriors who were grouped together tightly. *Perhaps they need help*... Luckily, Sleetstar didn't need to do anything. Bushwind crossed over and met Snakefoot, StoneClan's medicine cat whom he had not be acquainted with.

Their enthusiastic discussion about trading herbs in the future, seemed to set things off. Cardinalpaw began a light-hearted banter with Amberpaw, while Cloverpaw met the many apprentices of StoneClan.

"Wait... There's more of you," she said in disbelief. Batpaw and Ebonypaw nodded. Not very engaged in the conversation with the MountainClan apprentice, Stormpaw found himself sitting silently next to a russet furred tom, that smelt of CaveClan.

Stormpaw peered at him through the corner of his eye. He seemed two or three moons older, but he still appeared young.

"Do StoneClan cats always stare?" Frogheart chuckled, catching Stormpaw out of the corner of his eye. Flustered, Stormpaw sat back and processed his words.

"Nope. Just me," Stormpaw replied cooly. Frogheart grinned, then turned toward him. "I'm Frogheart."

"Stormpaw," he replied, before he caught a scent on the heir, that made him purse his snout. Stormpaw turned to Frogheart, laughing.

"That's awful! Did they swim before they came here.."

"Yeah. The river is the border," Frogheart replied. He too, found the scent far from pleasant, but inhaled it often.

Sure enough, LakeClan entered the gathering, damp from the swim. Leopardstar and Rockfall led the patrol into the area. Many cats grimaced at their less than groomed experience, but one cat did not.

Twanyowl was speaking with Lightningstrike and Dawnlight, when his eyes caught onto something. He rose his eyes and saw the white pelt, as droplets of water dripped down her thick pelt. The she cat's eyes, involuntarily, met his, and they stayed there.

"Wow..."

"I can't imagine fighting off rogues like he did.."

"Twanyowl," Lightningstrike muttered, noticing his eyes, gazing

across the gathering. Dawnlight and Lightningstrike both stopped and peered over to where Winterleaf stood, smiling discreetly to herself.

"That's Winterleaf," Dawnlight mentioned before Lightningstrike and her walked away. Twanyowl decided that if he was going to take action, it better be soon. He slowly walked up to the she cat before muttering a single word.

"Hi."

"Hi," she giggled, facing him. "I'm sorry. We haven't met yet. I'm Winterleaf.."

"I'm Twanyowl," he replied, nervously. Do it. Just do it. "Listen. You're a really beautiful she cat.. That's why I was acting like a creep back there..."

"No," she replied earnestly. "It's cute.."

"Were you born in LakeClan?" Twanyowl asked, curious of her pure white pelt. No one in LakeClan had a similar pelt to hers.

"No.. I came to the Lake with my father. We were some of the first of LakeClan, when there were only five of us. And you?"

"I came to MountainClan with my mother as a kit," Twanyowl explained. He didn't remember much before MountainClan, except the moments he spent with his mother. When she passed, it was hard for him, but he was determined to serve MountainClan as she would've.

"Do you have any litter mates?" Winterleaf asked, eager to continue speaking with him. Twanyowl shook his head and shrugged.

"Nah. I'm glad I didn't though.."

"Really? I kinda wish I would've. Well. Blackice, Toadleap and their siblings were my litter mates. But I miss my mom. I wish she would've made it here. She would've loved LakeClan," Winterleaf explained with wide roaming eyes. Twanyowl tilted his head.

"I know how it feels. I lost my mother in the invasion of MountainClan," Twanyowl said quietly. Winterleaf looked to him, and smiled.

"The Gathering is about to begin!" Cinderstar's voice interrupted. Sending the conversations into silence and hushed tones. Twanyowl and Winterleaf sat by each other throughout the gathering.

"I'd like to say the first words. CaveClan is happy to host you tonight, but we will enjoy LakeClan's hospitality, next moon," he declared. He gave a slight grin to Leopardstar before facing the cats again.

"Times have never been better. CaveClan is repairing the wounds of the past, and preparing for the future. Foxkit and Bearkit run around camp constantly. Hazelpaw and Amberpaw have made the change in becoming apprentices. And Frogheart, was made a warrior today. No problems have occurred on the border, but we continue to look out and preserve be. A Cave protects the strong and weak."

Cinderstar finished his annoucements, stepping back into the crowd, beside Fairshade, his deputy. Next, Leopardstar stepped forward. Anticipation ran through her paws, as speaking to so many cats was daunting.

"I want to thank everyone for putting up with our scents tonight. Unfortunately, there is no dry path that could take us here in time," she chuckled. She didn't get much laughter which made her stiff. "We have four new apprentices: Duckpaw, Flickerpaw, Butterflypaw, and Heronpaw. All are with us and may LightClan continue to guide their path as they train to be warriors. Unfortunately, we carry so saddened news. Owlkit, son of Badgerclaw and Moondust, has gone missing. Countless patrols have searched for him on LakeClan territory, but there his no scent or tracks. We fear the worse. Thank you for your corporation. I firmly believe that patience is a virtue."

Leopardstar slowly stepped back and looked toward Rockfall. He nodded in encouragement. She had done a great job for her first time public speaking. Sleetstar was the next to step forward, and

she glanced at the many clan cats.

"Indeed. Times are plentiful, for StoneClan, and many other clans. We welcome tonight, three new StoneClan warriors. Hollowflame, Hailstorm and Swifthawk. But in the knowledge, that after a plentiful season, comes a hazardous leaf-bare. We need to look forward to the future," Sleetstar declared, beginning differently than the other leaders. She glanced back at Twistedfoot who gave her a curt nod to go on. "The Hawkwatch, is gone. And so is Hawk himself. We need to ask ourselves, *why*, and what we are supposed to do about it. They fought for the destruction of the empire... than, they left. Something is not right. And we need to take action before it's too late.."

"That's absurd. Rogues leave and go when they please! It doesn't mean we need to raise forces against them," Rockfall argued, seeing the paranoia in the issue. Sleetstar turned to him with a frown.

"I'm not asking to raise forces. I'm asking for suggestions on how to sort the problem..."

"There is no problem. They're gone. Gone for good, hopefully," Fairshade remarked. Sleetstar shifted, as Twistedfoot met his brothers eyes.

"Some of those rogues... are warriors. They belong in these clans.."

"Don't misplace rogues as part of *our*, clans," Cinderstar said with disdain. Sleetstar openly spat at his paws, and she glared at him with fiery eyes.

"You and I both know, what rogues are like. No one is given this life... You have to earn it," she hissed. Cinderstar grew cold and sat up, glaring over her.

"Don't tell me about earning things... CaveClan will not support this task to find rogues, who are better off elsewhere," Cinderstar openly announced. Sleetstar stalked back to her clan.

"*Fine*."

"LakeClan will not either.."

"What are you thinking!" A voice said abruptly from the StoneClan crowd. Her clanmates cleared a path as she sauntered forward, with blue daggers for eyes. "Do you have any idea what danger they pose!"

"Quiet, Blackice," Twistedfoot muttered, but she brushed past her deputy.

"What evidence do you have they pose, any danger?" Cinderstar challenged. Blackice narrowed her eyes. She would've never dreamed of arguing with a leader, two moons ago. She would've never dreamed of killing a cat, two moons ago. She never would've stayed in StoneClan, until two moons ago. As she paused, Cinderstar quickly took the opportunity. "Your vivid imagination is not our concern..."

"He killed all cats. He didn't stop to ask them who they pledged allegiance to. He didn't flinch," at her words, Cloudflught shuddered beside his fellow clanmates. He had witnessed, Hawk kill Darkomen. *She's right*. He thought to himself. "I saw him... *slaughter*... Thunderstar, in the most gruesome way a cat could ever kill another cat."

"Hawk was a hero. He killed Thunderstar," Cardinalpaw shouted, remembering the horrors that he had done to his clan, and father.

"Hawk deceived us. All of us," Blackice declared, bowing her head in shame. It was truly her fault. "*Darkness* took his followers and will return. Except, he'll be nothing anyone has ever encountered before. *Please*, don't make a mistake that you won't survive to regret."

Blackice glanced around the clans. Cinderstar held a stern and unshifting glare, while Leopardstar avoided Blackice's eyes. *Coward*... Lastly, Blackice turned to Flamestar who sat pensively.

"MountainClan will not indeed in the matter of the Hawkwatch," Flamestar replied. At this, Blackice felt a fire boil in her belly. She stalked back to her Sleetstar who held the same expression of disappointment, Blackice did.

"MountainClan has been booming since our return home. Many kits full our nursery and we have many blessings. There was a slight issue, earlier in the moon with twolegs scented near our northern border, but it soon faded. We look forward to the end of leaf-bare and a beginning to new-leaf. May LightClan light your path," Flamestar finished. After the end of MountainClan's announcements, the meeting was abolished.

Sleetstar was so disgusted with the other leaders, that she stood to her paws, and left without saying goodbye. Following Sleetpool, were Blackice and Twistedfoot, then gradually the rest of StoneClan.

Stormpaw realized the sudden tension, and glanced toward Frogheart. He shrugged in response.

"I'll see you later, I guess," Stormpaw said in a hushed tone, and Frogheart nodded. Stormpaw trotted after them, as the last strangler.

Gradually, each clan found their way back to their clanmates and headed home. Winterleaf found it hard to say her goodbyes to Twanyowl, who had brought such spirited conversation and happiness.

"We'll meet again," Twanyowl promised as the she cat turned away, and trotted off. He sighed, hoping that he could keep the promise.

When StoneClan finally arrived back at camp, the first Rays of morning would appear shortly. Blackice glanced up at the full moon, studying it, before it disappeared for many nights.

"Are you alright? The gathering.."

"I'm fine, Sleetstar," Blackice replied to the she cat. *Don't ask me*. Blackice silently prayed.

"Are they getting worse?" Sleetstar questioned in concern.

"Every night. More vivid," Blackice swallowed, glancing away to her left.

"Have you tried the poppy seeds?"

"They make it longer," Blackice murmured irritably. Sleetstar was immediately taken aback, but knew she couldn't stay made at her.

"If there's anything you need. We're here for you. Your clanmates are here for you," Sleetstar mentioned, before heading off into her den.

Blackice breathed in slowly, before she went off to the empty deputy's den. No one used the den, except Blackice, who would wake anyone near her while she slept. The tremors and nightmares were too powerful. Too vivid. There was nothing she could do.

As she settled in her nest, her breathing became more frantic. She tried to calm herself, but as usual, nothing worked. When she closed her eyes, she immediately went back to void's cliff on that half-moon night.

Gem fell, her green eyes full of regret. Thunderstar was ripped apart slowly, and Blackice could see all of it through Hawk's eyes. One strike after another, his claws plunged into his flesh ripping apart and splattering blood everywhere. It continued, and the air was filled with Thunderstar's earth-shattering shrieks.

Hawk continued with strike after strike and the atmosphere grew thick and hot. In Hawk, all that was left was fire. A fire that seemed to burn like nothing had before. A fire fueled on pure hate. The fire was the hate. And each time, it engulfed Blackice, and reminded her of the hate Hawk had. The hate Thunderstar had. And the hate she had.

The awful nightmare stopped, unlike most nights. She didn't wake, this time. Instead, she was confront by a reflection of herself, in another cat.

"Where am I?" Blackice murmured frantically. Everything was bright and alive. The field that sat in was of golden flowing grass, while the trees were green with fulfillment and fertility. Everything gave off a warm filling of content.

"LightClan."

"Why?"

"You need not be afraid of me."

"Why! Why Sunlight!" Blackice demanded facing the golden tabby she cat. Their blue eyes met each other, and somehow, in her gut, Blackice knew the painful truth.

"You know. You've always known."

"No," Blackice declared sternly. There was no weakness in her tone, only one strong will that would have its way. "Never."

Sunlight's eyes narrowed, and the she cat circled her in a challenging fashion. Blackice was convinced she would take action and do something. Instead, Sunlight muttered three simple words, "Never say never."

Thanks for reading, voting and commenting! Thank you especially to Wattpad support who restored chapters 2, 15, 16, and 17. They're the best. If you ever have a problem that seems hopeless, go to them and be polite and patient.

Congrats to BlueTiger668 and lunapup365 who were the amazing ones who took the time to compete for the brothers. They are your winners.

BlueTiger668 is now the owner of Fairshade. And, lunapup365 is the owner of Twistedfoot. The Fairshade entry, gave me major feels.

Chapter 30

Allegiances:
(Shortened for the convenience of readers.)

RogueClan-
Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Maple- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 3 moons.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

Twolegplace cats:
Smokey- a golden thick furred tom with a long fluffy tail. He has gray eyes. (caliswaglife) 16 moons.

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10) 14 moons.

Limpet- a golden Bengal tom with green eyes, and is unhealthily thin. He has a big limp from a former accident. (thislittlefreak) 72 moons.

Twilight- a short black furred she cat with purple eyes. (D1am0ndgirl) 7 moons.

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. 4 moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 4 moons.

Underwood- a black furred tom with spots and speckles that run along his belly. He has brown eyes. 4 moons.

Natasha- a calico furred she cat with ginger and black patches. She has Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Sherlock- a brown furred tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

"Smokey! Please, give it back!" Twilight squealed as the golden furred tom snatched the mouse. His dangled it about her nose, but each time she tried to retrieve it, he'd pull it away.

"Don't be such a kitty! I was just going to have a quick bite before I returned it..."

"No!" She declared ramming herself in his chest. Since Smokey was twice her size, and full grown, there was no hope of retrieving the mouse. He would have to be generous. "*Please*. Luna hasn't eaten anything in days.."

"Why not?" Smokey questioned with a grin. Twilight frowned. *He doesn't believe me*. She grunted, knowing she wasn't supposed to speak about the orphans.

"Smokey!" Twilight snapped impatiently.

"Tell me or I'll eat the whole mouse!" He threatened. Twilight couldn't take it, she hadn't eaten in days either.

"She's taking care of kits that were abandoned. She's had to hunt for them instead of herself," Twilight rambled off before finally snatching the mouse from him, and darting off.

That's strange, Smokey thought to himself. Luna and Twilight had enough trouble by themselves. *Why would they welcome more mouths*

to feed?

"Wait, Twilight!" Smokey called after her, trotting to catch up. Twilight didn't stop until she squirmed through the metal hole in a twoleg fence, so that Smokey couldn't steal her catch.

"Luna doesn't want to see you," Twilight replied with warning eyes, before picking up the mouse once more. He grumbled.

"Yes she does! She just doesn't know that she wants to see me," Smokey stated coming up to the fence. Twilight shrugged and turned around, heading for the shed that was the sisters' home. Smokey paced outside the fence, waiting for Twilight to notify her sister, that he was here.

Sure enough, the she cat sauntered toward his with beady blue eyes. Her silver pelt had thick black stripes, and smaller speckles that ran along her pelt.

"How're you?" Smokey asked with a smirk, as his nuzzle poked through the nest. Luna wasn't amused at his flirtatious tone.

"Fine. But I've got a tom stealing from my little sister.."

"I was teasing her!" He corrected, hearing Twilight yowl her disagreement from inside the shed. Luna smirked, then stepped up to the fence.

"We're really busy. Maybe you should go bug Limpet, I hear his twoleg is out of town," Luna suggested.

"If I wanted to hug the old creep, I'd do it. But I want to spend this beautiful night, with a beautiful she cat," Smokey crooned and Luna tilted her head.

"How sweet," she replied, brushing noses with him before she flipped around. "Goodnight!"

Smokey growled ramming into the fence. He eventually laughed it off, and turned away. *Luna is such a tease*. Eventually he scampered away, and Luna rejoined her sister who had already began nibbling on the mouse.

Luna bent down, and tore off part of the flank, and chewed the tangy meat. A delicious fresh taste ran through her tongue and she couldn't help but moan. "Where did you find this?"

"I hunted it! Near the park," Twilight proclaimed proudly. But this only angered her sister. *How many times did she have to tell her?*

"How many times do I have to tell you! You can't go near the park. Past the park are bad things," Luna said adamantly. Twilight shifted, and rolled her eyes.

"The park has squirrels and mice! Some days, I even smell cats when the wind rushes through my fur!"

"That's a stupid story Limpet tells to kits *like you*!"

"I am not a kit! I'm 7 moons old!" Twilight groaned, tired of Luna being a mousebrain.

"It's still a make-believe story..."

"Nah-uh! I met one of them... A funny Tom and his friends who said they came her from the forest! They're staying with Limpet," Twilight rambled off, before realizing she was supposed to keep it a secret. "Oops."

Luna glanced over at the five kits, splayed over each other and deep in sleep. The youngest kit, was snoring away, while another was pawing in his sleep. They had only joined them a few days ago, and they hadn't decided their names yet. Except for Cog, all of them had been called *kit*, their whole lives.

"You're staying here and making sure they stay here, too. And I'm going to check out these, cats from the forest!" Luna decided pushing the mouse to her sister, who gratefully took a mouthful. Before Twilight could argue, Luna left the shed and trotted out the big gap in the fence, covered by an overgrown bush.

Making her way to Limpet's house, she ignored the bright lights of the twoleg's monsters. Most of the time, twolegs never bothered her, but sometimes a twoleg kit would squeal and try to pick her up, and that was the worst part of leaving amongst them. Otherwise, it was

easy and there was always shelter.

Limpet was lucky enough to own a huge twoleg den, and his twoleg left often, and allowed Limpet to go outdoors. Limpet's poor neighbor, Mace, had his claws taken away, and his twolegs never let him go outside. He couldn't have kits either.

As Luna arrived at Limpet's den, she glanced up at the night sky. Sure enough, the moon had vanished as it always did on the new moon. She continued knowing she had lots of time.

Limpet's yard didn't have a very big fence, so she trotted right up to the flap that left him exit and enter. Before she got there, she noticed a large lump that lay beside it. Except, the lump was a cat.

The cat shot up, and it was larger than Limpet, with definitive black stripes and fierce scars that covered his pelts. The tom's yellow eyes met hers and he shot forward. She had little time to react before the tom pinned her to the ground and yowled behind him.

"It's a rogue!"

"We're rogues..." Someone called back groggily. Suddenly, multiple cats emerged from the den and glanced over to Luna, including Limpet.

"What're you doing, *boy*. That's Luna. She's no harm to anyone," Limpet snapped, as he limped over to Lostpath. Taking deep breaths, Lostpath stepped back quietly.

"Sorry," he muttered.

"RogueClan, this is a real rogue, Luna," Limpet said, introducing the she cat. She stood up, blinking as she gazed around, examining the other cats. They all seemed fairly young, looked normal, but smelled atrocious.

"What is that.."

"We had to roll in trash to hide our scents," Bone immediately explained. He glanced at his white fur and made a distasteful expression. No one liked the smell.

"We're on a secret mission," Ink said with a smile.

"What?" Luna asked, before she heard a loud bang behind her.

The twoleg's fence had flung back, and two figures stood with uneasy expressions. "Twilight! And, Smokey?"

"You said I was supposed to come to Limpet's," Smokey replied with a grin.

"I didn't say Twilight could come!" Luna argued before five kits appeared behind Twilight.

"They found us," one kit giggled. The rest laughed. Luna grunted glancing at the rest of them. "Anyone want kits, they're yours.."

"We do!" Ink and Lynch said in unison, then glanced at each other in questions. Llewyn and Shadow glanced at each other with uneasy expressions.

"I was kidding, but.."

"I wanna be with the real rogues," the black kit with white spots said, prancing over to them. Luna rolled her eyes.

"I want to be queen of the clans!" The white she cat proclaimed. The other two followed her. Cog, the kit with a name, smiled widely.

"I think we should all go with them. And have a party..."

"A what? No. Just go," Luna said with an exhausted tone.

"But I want to go too!" Twilight declared stubbornly. Luna frowned, but Llewyn stood and smiled widely.

"Everyone can join! That's why we came here, to find supporters!" Llewyn declared.

"Well. We really came here to spy for Sleetstar, *but*.."

"Shh!" Llewyn ordered. "First we must name you. This tom shall be Underwood, because Kevin Spacey. *Spacy*. The spots. Get it?"

"No!" Everyone replied simultaneously.

"Well too bad. Underwood, you are," Llewyn said. The white she cat stepped forward her bright eyes beaming.

"What's my name?" She demanded.

"Dany," Llewyn decided after a moment of thought. *Mother of dragons and Breaker of chains is far too long*... "And you, ginger, shall be Natasha."

The ginger calico she cat, growled and she pounced forward. Quite dramatically, Natasha opened her jaw and bit Llewyn in the paw, with her sharp kit fangs. "Ah! Natasha bit me!"

Lostpath grabbed Natasha by the scruff and carried the kit full of fury, away. Llewyn composed himself and glanced at the last kit. A brown tom kit with a mysterious gaze.

"You, shall be Sherlock.."

"My name is Cog!" The last kit said. He was a brown tabby tom with bright green eyes. Llewyn nodded with a smile, happy Cog didn't give attitude or bite him. "And what about you, ladies, will you join RogueClan?"

Twilight glanced at her sister with wide eyes, murmuring and praying... *Yes yes yes yes yes*... Smokey, although not a she cat, had already didn't that this group was the right thing for him. Leaving alone was stressful, and if he could share the load with others, why wouldn't him? Luna glanced at the awaiting eyes before grumbling.

"Sure. We'll join RogueClan.."

"Yay!" Everyone shouted, except for Luma who was quite overwhelmed, and Natasha, who was trying to gnaw Lostpath's paw off.

"We'll leave at dawn! Everyone get a good rest," Llewyn announced. As RogueClan and its new members entered the den, Limpet stayed in the yard, examining the night.

Someone's here. Something's here. Limpet thought silently, as he stepped down the steps and checked his yard throughly. Most of it was fine, until he it to the tree in the right corner. Before he knew it, many cats emerged from above and down the tree.

"Hawk? And Sage? What're you... I thought you left.."

"Hollyfang. Take care of him," Darkness murmured. Limpet panicked, as the black furred she cat stalked forward, her eyes hungry for blood.

As he braced for a strike, a force stopped it. *Lostpath*. The large tom pinned Hollyfang to the ground as she squirmed and hissed.

"Let me go!" She snarled snapping at him. Lostpath avoided her fangs, and found holding Hollyfang down, quite amusing.

The commotion sent the other members of RogueClan out of the den. Claws were unsheathed and fangs barred as they caught sign of Hawk, or what used to be Hawk.

"Hawk? What're you doing.."

"When we will people stop with the *Hawk this, Hawk that!* Why *Hawk*. It seems to be the most overused name in history... Sagesmoke, would you do the introductions?" Darkness said eyeing the rogues in content. Sagesmoke stepped forward. Her eyes were pensive, but her voice was clear.

"Hawk is no more. From the death of the storm, came the birth of the true leader of the forest. Darkness. Profess your allegiance or you'll pay the price," she declared. When she stepped back, her expression didn't have one of pride, rather one of horror.

"Haw.. I mean, Lord Darkness your grace or excellence, I have a way to solve your dilemma," Llewyn began calmly. Llewyn's friends glanced at him in alarm. *Surely this isn't the time*.

"And that is?"

"A democracy!" When Llewyn spoke the words everyone grunted, except for Darkness who kept a calm and contained expression.

"What do you mean?"

"Each cat has a say. No leaders. Only representatives and peace," everyone glanced at Darkness for an answer as he thought to himself. Finally he examined Llewyn again, and sighed.

"Fine," he replied. It seemed that everyone present shattered in surprise. "Under some conditions. Your peaceful democracy will take place over the clans after I have my way. Only after my conditions have been met."

"Alright," Llewyn said. *Not too bad.* "And they are?"

"I need to see someone. A she cat, by the name of Blackpaw. If you direct me to wherever she sleeps at night, I'll let you continue peacefully. I'll let your clanmates stay here, while I accomplish my tasks. I promise you, no harm shall come from them," Darkness vowed with cold blue eyes.

"And what about Blackice? If you don't mind me asking?" Llewyn asked, sensing his clanmate's panic. Darkness stepped forward his eyes searching for words.

"I'm not going to harm the she cat, if that's what you're asking. We're simply going to have a *chat*."

"Deal," Llewyn said without hesitation. His clanmates glanced back and forth to each other, not certain if he had made the right decision. But Llewyn had faith in it.

"I'll come for our guide, tomorrow. Until then, *goodnight RogueClan*."

Chapter 31

[image]

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 2 moon.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 2 moon.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 2 moon.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 1 moon.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 1 moon.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 1 moon.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 1 moon.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 1 moon.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

RogueClan-
Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Maple- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Smokey- a golden thick furred tom with a long fluffy tail. He has gray eyes. (caliswaglife) 16 moons.

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10) 14 moons.

Limpet- a golden Bengal tom with green eyes, and is unhealthily thin. He has a big limp from a former accident. (thislittlefreak) 72 moons.

Twilight- a short black furred she cat with purple eyes. (D1am0ndgirl) 7 moons.

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. (cocowolf12) 4 moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 4 moons.

Underwood- a black furred tom with spots and speckles that run along his belly. He has brown eyes. 4 moons.

Natasha- a calico furred she cat with ginger and black patches. She has Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Sherlock- a brown furred tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 3 moons.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes.

(Ivystar138)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

The rays of morning came too fast. Ink woke to a subtle flicking on her shoulder, and she gazed up. She blinked through her crusty eyes, a few times before the eyes recognized Shadow.

"Ink," he said quietly, gazing to the outside of the den. She shifted, reading his body language.

"No. Llewyn or Lostpath can do it," she said adamantly. *You're not taking him from me.*

"Llewyn can't go. He has no experience traveling through the Lost forest and barely any skills in battle. Lostpath and I are going. We'll reach StoneClan by night, then come back here," Shadow explained briefly. Ink stood and narrowed her droopy eyes. She didn't trust Hawkwatch at all. And now, they were using them.

"Don't turn your back on them," she said before licking his left ear.

"I know," he replied, pulling away. She watched as the two toms stood, then made their way to the other cats waiting in the yard. Ink watched from the glass door with narrowed eyes, and for a split second, she could've sworn Darkness and her eye's met.

The tom with sharp blue eyes, tilted his head at her, examining her through from many cat-lengths away. However, when Lostpath, Bone and Shadow reached him, he stopped and turned to them.

"Are you prepared?"

"Always," Lostpath grumbled before pushing past Darkness. Darkness' warriors followed silently. All were eager to get the their first task finished. Darkness glared at Lostpath with disgust before turning to Shadow.

"You shouldn't take her for granted," he advised glancing at Ink, still inside the den. Shadow spared the glance too, and stiffened.

"Why do you say that?"

"I did. And she betrayed me," Darkness replied bitterly, before continuing forward. Shocked at the sudden fury which fueled the tom forward in his steps, Shadow fell back beside Lostpath.

The older tom was reaching the older moons, in which most clan cats had not reached. His gray and brown pelt was thick with age and wear. Burrs and thorns hung along the thick strands of his pelt. Grooming was never Lostpath's forte.

Shadow was not as tall as the tom, but was just as muscular. Both were more similar than they would admit. Both had endured the wrath of Vulturestar, the fear of exile, the death of Voidstar, and the strifes that brought they to RogueClan.

Lostpath glanced at Shadow pensively. Finally he took and breathed and narrowed his eyes at Shadow. "You shouldn't worry about Ink. There isn't a chance for you two anyway..."

"So you suddenly have a voice? Geez, Lostpath! Don't bite my ears off," Shadow sneered sarcastically.

"We're rogues. Not *RogueClan*. Not anywhere. After this, you and I should go and do what your father did. *Leave*."

"That's a coward's words..."

"They're wise words. You honestly think Llewyn and his twoleg ideas will help anyone. You believe that, *that thing*, will do anything good," Lostpath exasperated in a hushed tone. Overhearing them, Wishheart's ears perked and she silently followed Irisstep. "We've been cleaning up left over prey for the clans too long. This is no life. Not one that I wanted..."

"I agree with you. I rather die today, than run away," Shadow whispered before facing forward once more. As the two became quiet, Shadow glanced at Bone, a fellow rogue and former MountainClan warrior. His eyes were set on a figure up ahead, beside Reachingbreeze.

Bone held his tongue, even though he saw the black furred pelt, and

knew he was familiar. He wanted to say something, but he had never encountered the Hawkwatch before. *Just a familiar pelt. That's all.* He assured himself.

It wasn't until the young tom turned to Hollyfang behind him, revealing his brown eyes. *Ravenpaw*.

Bone had left MountainClan before the young tom left, and had no idea of what occurred. Questions poked at him constantly, as the young tom was not a wicked one. *How is he here? Why is he not in MountainClan? What happened to Flamestar to let him come here?*

"How much longer?" Ravenpaw snapped irritably.

"We haven't even reached the Lost forest yet. We'll be there by nightfall," Lostpath retorted, scowling at Ravenpaw. *Why do young cats act like dung?* Darkness nodded and began to speak to the group after Ravenpaw's words.

"We're not here to fight the biggest clan of the forest. The rest of the Hawkwatch will cause a distraction near their border with the lake. Scenting you, they shall jump into battle. We will sneak in with the help of our guides," Darkness explained to the group. They nodded stiffly without reply, except for Shadow. Blackice was his half sister, born without his knowledge and raised in LakeClan. But without knowing her, he cared about her. She was kin.

"Won't she fight you? StoneClan sees you as the enemy," Shadow remarked.

"That's ironic. The Hawkwatch liberated them and now, they despise us."

"Anyone would question a demon's motives," Lostpath muttered bitterly. Everything went silent, and Darkness came to a stop. He slowly turned, and stalked up toward Lostpath.

"The she cat, *is mine*. She will be taken tomorrow and we will see, who the true demon is..."

The group continued onward to the Lost Forest, and StoneClan, in silence. While another clan relaxed in the cool morning, as the sun

began to rise.

"We need to go see the medicine cat den," Flintkit whispered to her litter mates. Her eyes beamed with excitement as they tip-toed out of the nursery. Hopekit nodded while Happykit fell on his back, looking up to the canopy that covered their camp.

"It's so green," he giggled while kicking his chubby little legs, pretending he was flying through the canopy of leaves. Flintkit sighed laid beside her brother, glancing up at the canopy also. She didn't want to look at the trees all day, but if it's what her little brother wanted to do, than she'd have to compromise.

"Flintkit. Do you think Olivenose will play with me?" Hopekit squeaked.

"If you ask nicely. Just remember what mommy says," Flintkit advised as her tiny sister barreled off for the medicine cat den. New-leaf had come very quickly, and the clan was enjoying a new season of prey and peace.

Flintkit and Happykit continued to stare up at the light that shone through the canopy when a voice took them by surprise.

"What're you doing?"

"Tallcloud!" Happykit explaining running toward him. Flintkit giggled as Tallcloud and he play-fought. He was so good to them.

"We were looking at the leaves," Flintkit explained shaking off her pelt.

"Where's Hopekit and the others?"

"Hopekit went to find Olivenose and the other kits are asleep. They stayed up to late.."

"I'm going to go check on them. Make sure you don't get yourselves into trouble," Tallcloud chuckled before heading off to find his own kits. After Tallcloud entered, Cloudfire and Swankit shortly exited.

The young white she cat had a beautiful white pelt, that was always

groomed. Flintkit naturally envied her beauty, but didn't focus on such things.

"Hi Sawnkit!" Flintkit called out.

"Hi," she piped up, in a soft reply. She left her mother's side and scampered toward them with a smirk. "Guess what?"

"What!"

"I was sitting near the apprentice's den the other day, and Jaypaw said he liked me!" Swankit replied with a small smile. Happykit gasped at the news, while Flintkit nodded. "I think we're going to be mates someday!"

"Well..." Flintkit began before seeing her mother exit the nursery. Pulling her brother with her, she went to meet Blitzfire, who glanced at them with suspicion.

"What're you two up to?" She asked gently.

"Nothing," Happykit giggled. By then, Hopekit had caught up to them with a gloomy expression.

"Olivenose said she couldn't play with me," Hopekit sighed, near tears. Flintkit wrapped her tail around her sister, trying to be comforting.

"Medicine cats have a lot of work. I'm sure she'll play with you when she's free," Blitzfire assured her daughter.

Hopekit huffed, but her kits followed her as she reached the prey pile. She picked out a mouse, seeing as it was enough for the three. They had yet to try prey before, but today was their lucky day.

"It's time for you three to try prey. After all, apprentices can't have milk anymore," Blitzfire explained. The three made faces of disgust and stepped back.

"No way! It smells funny."

"It's dead..."

"How do you know you won't like it, if you've never tried it?"

"I'll try it," Flintkit replied bravely, trying to make her mother's job easier. Blitzfire smiled fondly and set the mouse down in front of her.

Slowly and apprehensively, Flinkit lowered her head, and bit into the pelt of the mouse. Taking the fur, flesh and all in her mouth, she chewed and then swallowed.

"Well.."

"I'm never having milk again!" Flintkit explain as she dug into the rest of the mouse. Her siblings both wanted to eat it now, realizing there must be something special about it. Blitzfire sat back, watching them with loving eyes.

After let the kits devour the mouse, Blitzfire headed to the medicine cat den, by herself. Bushwind had not come to see the kits yesterday, and she feared something was wrong.

"Bushwind," she called out, stepping into the den. Olivenose sat examining Echoheart, who had dislocated her hind leg while chasing a rabbit. Blitzfire brushed past her and deeper into the den where Bushwind lay, curled in his nest.

From afar, it appeared as he was sleeping, but when she drew closer, she realized he was shaking and shivering. She spoke softer, "Bushwind."

"They're going to take the kits.."

"What? Bushwind.."

"They're going to take our kits."

The picture attached to the chapter is by dwcyrus. It depicts the five children of Vulturestar and Skystar. From left to right, *Sharpwing, Blackice, Tangledwood, Toadleap, and Deathclaw*. As I've said before, I'll post any fan art if accessible and given to me. Because I can't

draw!

Yes. Updates are suddenly very long now but just be thankful I will finish this story with 60 chapters. Some authors never finish.

Chapter 32

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Apprentices:
Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette) Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 1 moon.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 1 moon.

Vulturekit- a tiny gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 1 moon.

Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 1 moon.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom), Angelkit (she cat) and Ospreykit (tom).

Apprentices:

Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Butterflypaw- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) Mentor: Winterleaf

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Apprentices:
Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 3 moons.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) 3 moons.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons. (helloimsanta)

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 2 moons.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 2 moons.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 1 moon.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 1 moon.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

Sighing, Sweetbreeze smiled as she overlooked Toadleap addressing the birth. The gentle cries newborn kits were music to their ears. There were three more additions to the LakeClan nursery.

"Is everything alright? Is she alright?" Dragonstone asked

immediately, as Sweetbreeze stepped out of the den. She smiled and nodded, in reply, and the father rushed into the nursery.

The medicine cat grinned to herself before trotting off to her own den. Inside the den made of drift wood and reeds, were two nests, and mud grooves in the side of the den, which organized and held the herbs.

Raspberry leaves... No, Toadleap took care of that, Sweetbreeze told herself. They had already given Mistyshone poppy seeds, and borage leaves, but Sweetbreeze was afraid she was forgetting something.

She glanced over the herbs frantically. Sweetbreeze shifted on her paws before taking a deep breath.

"It's Ragwort leaves," Toadleap declared as he rushed into the den. Sweetbreeze cursed herself and picked the leaves up, from the bottom groove. She murmured *thanks*, before taking off for the nursery.

For some reason, delivering kits was one of the most stressful times in Sweetbreeze's calling. Unlike other times, she was often overcome with personal emotion. They kept her from thinking straight.

All she thought lot about was the kit she couldn't deliver herself. In those times, all she could think about were her forbidden litter. And how LightClan punished her for it. Each day.

You can never let them know... Her mentor's voice would play through her mind each day. *What will they be called?* Her mentor had asked at the time. *Dovekit and Silverkit.*

"Sweetbreeze?" A voice prodded quietly, and she whipped around to see a small kit in her presence. It was Skykit, wide with caution.

"It's far too late! You should be asleep," Sweetbreeze scolded, after dropping the herbs to her paws.

"I'm sorry," Skykit squeaked. "The new nest isn't like my old one. It keeps poking me."

"Oh, I know," Sweetbreeze sympathized. "You'll be able to go back soon. I promise."

Skykit nodded with a small smile before walking back to the substitute den, where her mother was fast asleep. Taking the leaves into her mouth, she continued to the nursery where Dragonstone and Mistyshine eagerly spoke to each other in hushed whispers.

"Angelkit is so adorable! She's my favorite," Dragonstone proclaimed as he saw Sweetbreeze enter. Mistyshine batted him with her tail before pulling Angelkit back into her belly.

"Daddy's little girl already?"

"Yes.."

"It's too soon. They'll always love their mother more," Mistyshine snickered.

"I brought Ragwort leaves to ease joint pain you may have at dawn," Sweetbreeze said, placing them in front of Mistyshine. She nodded attentively.

"Thank you Sweetbreeze. You must be tired of all this kitting..."

"I am," she chuckled before bidding them a good night and heading back to her den. Settling into her nest was a daily struggle.

As a medicine cat, and as herself, she couldn't stop thinking about the others. *Will Troutkit's scratch heal properly? Has Moondust overcome losing Owlkit? Will her daughters ever know their mother, was always with them?* These questions continually play out in Sweetbreeze's mind, each night. Like a prayer, they were always filled with uncertainty and worry beyond compare.

Help me LightClan, were the silent prayers of more than Sweetbreeze.

Blackice sat beside her brothers as they contemplated the stars. The four siblings were outside of camp, all sprawled out on the stone said to be where Thunderstar conquered the forest.

"Do you think he's in LightClan?"

"No way. He killed people," Sharpwing retorted.

"But he thought what he was sound was right," Tangledwood argued.

"Believing that you're right, doesn't justify your actions," Deathclaw stated adamantly. Sharpwing smirked at Tangledwood, before facing his sister.

"What about you, Blackice?"

"I..," she stuttered. *Breathe*. "I don't want to think about that *monster*."

"Hey," Tangledwood interrupted, seeing her panic. "Are you alright?"

"Am I ever alright?" Blackice chuckled, trying to keep herself from getting to emotional. Deathclaw sat quietly off to the side, with a plain expression. Thornfrost and Deathclaw were signature for their composure. Sometimes, it seemed like the two had no emotion at all. "How are you so.."

"Soulless?" Deathclaw guessed with a grin. "It's my gift, from my father."

Tangledwood and Sharpwing both glared at Deathclaw with a level of surprise. Blackice noticed this, then glanced at her brothers.

"What?"

"I brought up dad," Deathclaw muttered bitterly, glaring at their brothers. "And *they* don't like to talk about our father..."

"We should," Blackice said in realization. No one had ever truly asked her about it. No one talked about him. But the clan could sense him, still with StoneClan, living inside Sleetstar.

"I didn't know him."

"Well *we* did," Tangledwood retorted. "He killed Skystar you know. Just because Thunderstar told him too."

"Then he left, just when he was becoming a good father," Sharpwing replied.

"He did it for us," Deathclaw scowled. "Thunderstar would've killed us as retribution if he didn't disappear. We're alive because of him!"

"Like he cared," Blackice muttered, suddenly full of spite. *He left us*. "If he was here, Gem would still be alive."

"Enough. I hate arguing like this. I'm going back to camp," Sharpwing decided, without another word. Afterward, a distinct silence filled the air and Blackice glanced at her brothers.

Tangledwood left, silently, while Deathclaw looked back to her. "You need to let go. Try to recover."

"You don't think I'm trying!" Blackice screamed. Deathclaw glared at her coldly, for the mere volume. "I'm trying every dawn I wake to forget it... But I can't! No one understands, especially not you! So don't try to pretend you know everything!"

Deathclaw looked past her, coldly until his eyes narrowed and fixed on something. The silence was scratching at Blackice and she finally interrupted his thoughts quite powerfully.

"What!"

"I see cats.." At her brother's words, Blackice whipped around to see silhouettes of cats appearing from the Lost forest. *No... No..*

"Let's go," Deathclaw demanded, and they both took off for camp. It was longer away than the lost forest, and Blackice was afraid they wouldn't make it. Surpassing her better judgment, Blackice dropped down through one of the crevices and slid inside of a cold dark cavern, pressing herself away from the crack and into the dirt wall.

Deathclaw didn't seem to notice and was focused on notifying camp. Blackice felt the rumble of paws dash offer the rocks above her, and she cringed internally, hoping that her hidden spot

wouldn't be revealed.

Above her, the last of the Hawkwatch and their guides stood idly. Darkness had smelled a potent scent of StoneClan. *She's close...* He thought to himself. Lostpath and Shadow sat back before glancing back at the Lost forest.

"Leave already. I'm not going to stop you. You've done you're job," Darkness retorted before pacing across the rocks. The two RogueClan toms hastily left, leaving Darkness to confront the hidden, Blackice.

Instead of elongated the suspense, he dropped into the small cavern where the she cat hid. She screamed, as his eyes met hers, and she pressed further into the dirt wall, yearning for an escape.

"I'm not who you think I am!"

"Of course you are, Blackice," he muttered, not amused.

"I don't want to be apart of this!" Blackice declared. She was trying to compose her fear, but it controlled her movements and she was shaking violently.

"You will be," he whispered stepping closer to her. His breath was a rancid smell which Blackice was forced to inhale as he cornered her. "Don't fight it. You will continue to feel this pain, until you let go."

"No," Blackice muttered, sealing her eyes with determination. She wouldn't look at him. *It's not Hawk*.

"You will succumb to Sunlight. And she will succumb to me. You are an instrument in a plan and a life that is not your own. *Let go...*"

His voice was no longer Darkness', and even though Blackice knew the consequences, she wanted to give in. And it only took a single consideration for her mind to slip. She felt a pain surge to her head, and her chest burned, as she struggled to fight the instincts.

Don't give in, a voice that she did not recognize said to her. A voice that could only belong to one tom. *Vulturestar*.

Blackice's eyes shot open and her head legs shot up, kicking Darkness back into the side of the wall. She regained her focus gradually and leaped out of the small space and back to the open air. Wasting no time, she raced across the stones and to her camp.

She could feel Darkness' breath on her hind legs, until it disappeared and she sped straight into camp. She stopped beside Sleetstar who was licking a wound on her shoulder.

"Blackice!"

"They came here looking for you," Steelstrike said, with worried eyes.

"He's back. They're back."

"We know. But you're safe now. We sent them running!" Russetpaw exclaimed proudly. The apprentices seemed to be thrilled, but Blackice knew it was no cheering matter.

She glanced at the entrance to camp eerily, watching it with intensity. *He'll be back. And so will Sunlight.*

I'm alive.

Chapter 33

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Apprentices:
Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette) Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
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Hoodkit- a tiny black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 1 moon.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

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Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Wishheart- a long furred golden tabby he cat with lake blue eyes. (Ivystar138)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

Scouting from the edge of the forest, it seemed that the StoneClan Warriors were closely guarding their home, instead of pursuing their attackers. The crisp wind hit Ravenpaw's pelt with intensity as he paced back and forth. Narrowing his eyes, he felt a restless pain in his legs and was ready to leap into action at any given moment.

He hissed in frustration as he saw no figures in the moonlight. Ravenpaw could practically taste their blood on his lips, and he craved for murder. Revenge was his only ambition, and he was set or murdering the cats that killed his father, and made his mother fox hearted.

Behind him, he heard the slight crunch of leaves as two cats came behind him. He glared at the two warriors, one with a dark pelt similar to his, and the other with a white pelt stained with a single ginger paw. The two were notorious killers, which Sagesmoke had warned him about him, when he joined.

"What're you doing?" Vicefang sneered. The tom's eyes followed Ravenpaw's until they both focused on the few cats watching them. Vicefang scoffed and sat beside a nearby tree.

"Isn't it obvious?" Crimsonclaw replied, with slight amusement. "He thirsts for it, too."

"What!" Ravenpaw exclaimed bitterly. Feeling uncomfortable, he gave up watching the camp and stalked back into the forest. The two exchanged grins and followed him.

"You like to kill things, don't you?"

"No!" Ravenpaw insisted as he continued through the woods.

Vicefang's laugh came from many places, and he couldn't spot the tom. Soon Crimsonclaw was taunting him on his flank.

"It's alright pretty boy... Embrace it!"

"Leave me alone, dung-faces," Ravenpaw spat, before he was knocked to the ground in a single bat of the paw. Crimsonclaw circled him, menacingly. For once, she was having fun.

"Son of Flamestar, huh? It's not bad blood. You're just like us," she whispered, licking him on the cheek where the impact of her punch, still stung. Ravenpaw watched as the two were beside him, on his flanks. He couldn't escape their taunting, he couldn't from this.

"I'm not like you, *murderers*. I'm a warrior, one who will be powerful someday! One who will be remembered!"

"No one is remembered sweetheart.."

"Did anyone remember me once my parents died? Did anyone remember the runt of Spiderstar?" Vicefang retorted, full of hate.

"Did anyone remember, Crimsonclaw? Daughter of *Redstar*! *My own mother*, took her claws across my eye, and no one remembered that," Crimsonclaw replied with indifference in her words.

Ravenpaw was shocked, because he didn't remember stories of them, or know them. *Ashfall never mentioned his brother, and Olivenose never said she had a sister*. He, as many others, carried a morbid curiosity for the she cat's massive scarring.

"We are both from MountainClan, just like you," Vicefang said with a smirk. "But we all share much more."

"What?"

"We hate our fathers. And you hate your mother. They all have a star at the end of their name."

"That's not true.."

"Don't tell us what's true, *kit*! You've been lied to your whole life!

That's why you left. You knew something wasn't right with them."

"Leave me alone!"

"No! You came to Darkness! Now you belong with us," Crimsonclaw declared skimming her claws across his pelt. Ravenpaw ran from their grasp and back to the edge of the forest, where he could see the patrols were coming closer. He flexed his claws his anticipation, before he shuddered.

"We see ourselves in you, pretty boy. And you're going to be one of us," Crimsonclaw insisted. "We're going to teach you how to kill them... *all of them*. Then, that's how you'll be remembered."

When they guided him back into the forest, he followed. Deeper in the lost forest, was the rest of the group, struggling to cope with the defeat.

Biting her lip, Wishheart winced in pain as Irisstep addressed leaves to her wounds. The would was a bloody gash on her leg, thst stretched up to her shoulder. She screamed as he pressed it against the fragile skin left and she quivered in pain.

"Hold on."

"I'm trying, love," Wishheart whimpered. But her sight was leaving her and her heart was beginning to sound like thunder in her chest.

"He said hold on, so do it!" Hollyfang commanded, trying to lick the edges clean and hold the leaf to her leg. Wishheart found their effort one of the happiest moments in her life. Her most beloved partners, were doing their best to save her, even though common sense would tell them otherwise.

As her heart slowed and her vision began to blur, she gazed at both of them. "I love you," she whispered before shutting her eyes, forever.

"This is all your fault!" Hollyfang cried out, glaring at Irisstep with utmost resentment.

"I did everything I could! I told her not to come!" Irisstep defended

himself, but Hollyfang's words were sinking in.

"No," Hollyfang cursed herself, the sky, the trees, and everyone she found responsible that night. The pain affected everyone.

How did this happen? Sagesmoke scowled silently. Her friends were distraught, broken and screaming. As she sat silently, she caught a glimpse of Darkness as he passed through.

"I thought you were supposed to hold back StoneClan?" Reachingbreeze immediately confronted Tempestshadow. Instead of the two toms fighting over it, Hollyfang stepped forward irritably.

"They had too many," she stated.

"I could've taken that ginger that you couldn't!" Reachingbreeze sneered, while Tempestshadow scoffed.

"There was more than one of them.."

"I didn't come among you to watch you run from numbers. I came to you to bring justice into this world. If we can't hold our own, we'll need a new approach," he said, narrowing his eyes to a nearby rock. Sagesmoke stood, and walked over.

"Is this normal to you? Do you expect us to go into another battle and watch my kin get hurt, for *what*?" Sagesmoke accused boldly.

"Sacrifices must be made. You knew that and *Hawk* knew that," Darkness murmured coldly. "We're not going to fight again."

"Then how are you going to defeat her?"

"It's not the she cat we need to defeat. It's Sunlight. She has chosen her vessel and that is Blackice. The only thing we can do, is break her for Sunlight, so I can break Sunlight.. Along with the others. CaveClan and LakeClan will be watched, and we will find the other vessels," Darkness proclaimed with a glint of ambition in his eyes. *As long as we stay on path, it's only a matter of time before I see my love once more, and we can properly reunite*.

"Is this wise?" Sagesmoke asked, unsure of the path he wished to

take. Darkness met her eyes and held the glance.

"It is what is right."

As the Hawkwatch settled into the shadows of the Lost forest, StoneClan could not rest from the sudden shock in the night. Blackice had avoided everyone's questions, and avoided the clan meeting. In that time, she took refuge at the shore, where the long lost leader, disappeared forever.

"I know I heard you," Blackice declared boldly, pacing back and forth through the sand. When there was no reply, her pacing became more frantic.

"Listen!" Blackice demanded glaring up at the night's stars. "If you're dead, this doesn't matter much."

Silence was her indifferent reply, and she shifted. *How awkward.. I'm talking to the sky*.

"Come home. *Please*."

Her emotions flooded upon her in that moment, and she thought of her mother. The gentle blue she cat, so quiet and loving, yet full of grief.

"I don't forgive you.. I.. I don't even know you. I'm just asking, that we both try," she begged in a quiet whimper, before bowing her head. "Daddy, I'm so scared. I don't know what to do, anymore."

Blackice heard the distant rumble of paw steps and turned her head to see Steelstrike, coming toward her. Taking a breath, Blackice composed herself before turning to the unlikely visitor.

"Is everything alright? I heard about.."

"I'm fine. Really," Blackice lied. *It's just super annoying when the whole clan heckles me about it.*

"I'm sorry," he admitted abruptly.

"For what?" She replied.

"For not being around. I'm just not *myself* anymore. Not after Foxheart.."

"I understand," she sympathized. He chuckled after a period of silence.

"You know, I used to think everything would be easier after I was a warrior. That I'd be respected, loved, and perfect, but it's not like that at all. I haven't spoken to Moonpelt in nearly a moon..."

"Why not?" Blackice prompted curiously. It was easier talking about someone else's problems, rather than her own.

"He loved Foxheart. I tolerated him. I thought my father, my family, was perfect until Rosejay was murdered. Then, it fell apart. It's still like that," Steelstrike sighed.

"I don't have the best family either.."

"I'm not trying... I'm not trying to say my problems are bigger than yours. I would never. I just care about you, and sharing is caring?" Steelstrike mumbled uncertain of where this discussion was going. *What was the purpose of this?*

"No. I really, respect that. I do."

"Do you think anything will ever get better?"

"I used to. But not anymore. There will always be another Thunderstar.." Blackice admitted with utmost sadness.

"True," Steelstrike replied in a quiet daze, as they gazed up at the silent stars.

R.I.P. WISHHEART

Gentle and loving, this she cat was very dear to several of our cats and readers. One of the nicest and most harmless cats, it was strange how she ended up on a side of psychopaths and deranged killers. Wherever you may be, we remember you Wishheart.

We **wish** you were here, whole **heart**edly.

Thank you Ivystar138, your several contributions to this story. You're decisions in the past, are responsible for my OTP of this series. Love you lots.

Thank you all, for reading, writing, voting, and commenting. Anyone whose missed the frequent chapters that used to be, I assure you I will eventually finish this book.

With a bang. ;)

Chapter 34

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 2 moon.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 2 moon.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 2 moon.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 1 moon.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 1 moon.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 1 moon.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 1 moon.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 1 moon.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward) Kits: Owlkit (tom), Howlingkit (tom), and Blossumkit (she cat)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom), Angelkit (she cat) and Ospreykit (tom).

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Butterflypaw- a petite gray she cat with a white patch on her chest. She has hazel eyes. (_WarriorGirl_) Mentor: Winterleaf

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Apprentices:
Howlingkit- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) 4 moons.

Blossumkit- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes.

(Lilacfur) 4 moons.

Troutkit- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. 4 moons. (helloimsanta)

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) 3 moons.

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) 3 moons.

Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 2 moons.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 2 moons.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

A cool morning fog hung over the still lake. The fog loved to intertwine itself in the branches of the cedars, common to the lake's shore. It was thick and crawled uphill but not quite reaching the MountainClan camp.

Only the faint sound of crickets and the morning chirping of wrens as they searched the forest floor for their prey. This all occurred as a simple tom, made his way through the fog, and across the shore.

His green eyes roamed, searching the area. The fog was thick and impossible to see through. Sullen, he sat on his back paws and glanced across the lake. Emerging from the left corner of his view, was a blur of white.

"I thought you forgot," Tawnyowl chuckled as he trotted up to her.

"About you? Never," Winterleaf replied before licking his cheek, affectionately. The two did not share many words as they gazed across the lake. Soon, Winterleaf would have to return with a piece of prey, and Twanyowl do the same.

"How's LakeClan?"

"Good. But there's so many kits.. I just have to get away!" Winterleaf exclaimed, laughing awkwardly. It truly took an entire clan to raise kits.

"That's what I'm here for!"

"No! I'm sorry.." Winterleaf quickly said. "I don't want you to think you're just an escape! You're more than that to me, Twanyowl."

"But.. You still live in LakeClan, and I still live in MountainClan.."

"We talk about this all the time!" Winterleaf retorted. "I was born in LakeClan! I can't just.. leave them."

"My mother chose MountainClan. She placed her trust in this clan and they gave us a home," Twanyowl replied, repeating what he told her each time.

"Rockfall is my father. I can't leave him!"

"My mother was buried in this territory. I was raised amongst these oaks, the soft dirt beneath my toes, and taught the pattern the birds take each season. I want my kits to smell the cedars and love this land as I have grown to love it," Twanyowl said before turning away. The anxiety was too much.

"Twanyowl, I love you."

"I know. That's why it's so hard. I love you too Winterleaf." The two remained with each other for as long as they could, their pelt never leaving one's side. And as the time passed, the thought of leaving each other would bring them pain.

The only thought that kept the two on their paws, was the promise of seeing each other again. When Winterleaf pulled away with

foggy eyes, Twanyowl did the same and retreated quickly, back into the foliage of the forest.

Twanyowl tightly shut his eyes, and continued walking. He knew that if he glanced back, even once, he would never have the strength to leave her again. Pushing onward, he smelled the scents on the subtle breeze and rolled down the hills.

Narrowing his eyes, he crouched down and began prowling forward, making each step precise and careful. His technique and experience had molded him into one of the best hunters MountainClan had to offer.

After coming upon the source of the scent, he slowed and his eyes focused on the small creature. A gray plump mouse, was enjoying what green-leaf had supplied. Nibbling on a large leaf, it could not see the tom, lurking only a bush away.

Hungry, Twanyowl did not waste anytime when he shot forward. Catching the mouse off guard, his claws easily sunk into its flesh and the little morsel had only a breath or too before it faded from life.

Victorious and satisfied with his morning, Twanyowl strolled back to camp. As many mornings, the camp was bubbling with energy.

Without even making it to the prey pile, Cardinalpaw and Cloverpaw spotted him. The litter mates raced over to Twanyowl without hesitation.

"Twanyowl.."

"Can I help you?" He replied sarcastically. The two sat silently glaring at each other, before Cloverpaw prodded her brother.

"You ask him.."

"No! You said you'd-"

"Ask me what?"

"Can you take us up the mountain?" Cloverpaw finally said.

Twanyowl frowned and glanced up hill.

"You can always take yourselves up there," Twanyowl replied.

"No! You see.. Cloudfire, says we can never go up with a warrior's guidance," Cardinalpaw added on uneasily.

"She's really being unreasonable because in few moons we'll be warriors!" Cloverpaw declared.

"I don't know. I'm awfully busy with patrols," Twanyowl said.

"You mean busy with a *she cat*.."

"What!"

"You smell like her. All the time," Cloverpaw chuckled.

"What! I have no idea.."

"We're not going to tell anyone! Because you're our friend, Twanyowl. And friends take us on dangerous journeys our mother won't let us go on," Cardinalpaw said with a grin.

"In two days," Twanyowl grumbled.

"Alright!" Cardinalpaw cheered.

"That's the spirit!" Cloverpaw added on. Soon enough, the two apprentices raced away to meet their mentors for patrol.

Twanyowl set his mouse upon the pile, not wasting anytime on that front. The tiny gray mouse was minuscule compared to the large squirrels and rabbits that compiled most of the prey. He glanced around camp to see Thornfrost glaring at him with narrowed eyes.

Even when he met her glare, it still continued until the point where it was highly irritating. The gray tabby she cat held her icy glare as Twanyowl approached her.

"Is something wrong?"

"You look like you're giving your duty a fox's dung," Thornfrost

replied indifferently. She held her glare and Twanyowl shifted on his paws.

"I go hunting every morning."

"You're lazy every morning. The only reason I'm disappointed at you, is because I know you're better, Twanyowl. I'm going to tell Suntail to put you on the morning patrol tomorrow," Thornfrost replied. Walking away, Twanyowl didn't feel angry at the she cat, rather shameful.

Thornfrost is right. Deep inside, Twanyowl felt the guilt she placed upon him. Skipping the harder patrols and taking on minimalistic hunting trips to see Winterleaf more often, was not what he wanted to be remembered for. He sighed before trotting over to Suntail to receive further orders for the day. *I'm a warrior. A MountainClan warrior*.

Meanwhile, across the lake, Winterleaf was trekking over the wet marshlands home. It has rained the past night and the grass was especially absorbent, soaking up the water with ease. Every step she took resulted in her paws sinking into the unpleasant muddy ground.

By the time she was remotely near camp, mud traced up her entire leg, stained her white fur and caked it with mud. Grunting at the sight, she searched for dry ground.

Glancing left, she spotted a grassy patch. Leaping over, she licked the mud off her legs, when she heard a high pitched shriek. Leaving her grassy patch, she traipsed over the ground, toward the sounds.

Close to the lake, there were several lagoon pools as the river filtered into the lake. They were dangerous rapids, during floods, but shallow pools at other times.

Hidden in the reeds, were a group of young LakeClan, arguing with each other constantly.

"Stop it!"

"No! You can't hang out with us because you're not LakeClan!"

Troutkit said with a somber glance. Scalykit sat quietly to the side, glancing away.

"I told you, I'm LakeClan!" Coalkit insisted as he pleaded with the group of cats. Butterflypaw and Heronpaw glanced at each other but remained silent.

"We're teaching Troutkit and Scalykit how to swim," Butterflypaw explained quietly. Heronpaw nodded then looked at Coalkit, and shrugged.

"You're too young.."

"I'm bigger than Butterflypaw! I'm bigger then Troutkit and Scalykit! This isn't fair!" Coalkit yelled with a shrill and panicked voice.

"Go away, Coalkit!" Butterflypaw demanded. At this, Coalkit lunged at Butterflypaw and she fell backward in panic.

Slipping into the deepest tide pool, the current took the two under, Butterflypaw struggled to get her head above water while Coalkit gripped the side of the pool, closest to the rock.

Kicking profusely, Coalkit managed to keep his grip on the rock while Butterflypaw struggled with the pull of the pool. The other kits and apprentices screamed in terror, and Coalkit was soon taken by the scruff and lifted out of the pool.

"Winterleaf," Coalkit murmured as he saw his rescuer. As soon as he said her name, she plunged into the pool once again. Butterflypaw was under the current when Winterleaf's wake sent her into the rock,

Butterflypaw's head rammed into the rock and her struggle stopped, as her eyes rolled over. Winterleaf gripped her apprentice by the scruff and pulled her to the side of the pool where they were save from the rapids.

"Butterflypaw..." Scalykit spoke with an uneasy voice as their eyes focused on the she cat. The young she cat's neck was crooked, her eyes didn't move, and her chest no longer heaved for air.

"Butterflypaw!" Heronpaw screamed as he rushed to his sister. Winterleaf rose to her paws and examined her apprentice with a dismayed expression.

"It's all your fault," Heronpaw muttered bitterly, immediately looking toward Coalkit.

"Heronpaw, stop. We need to get your sister back to camp!" Winterleaf insisted, trying to hold back her own grief. Coalkit glanced to the ground, trying to avoid their glares.

Strangely, Coalkit didn't feel saddened, mad or shameful. In reality, Coalkit felt a rush of relief. *She got what she deserved*.

Later in the night, Rockfall and Dovepool were seen crying over their daughter's limp body. Leopardstar and the rest of the clan focused on solving the problem at hand.

"It's my fault," Winterleaf insisted. "I wasn't here this morning, I went for a walk and that's why they left camp. If I would've been here.."

"No. We're not blaming anyone. I just want to prevent this from ever happening again," Leopardstar replied. Her anxiety had risen to a new level since Owlkit's disappearance and Butterflypaw's death. To secure the future of the young of the clan, they had to take action.

"I was still sleeping with Cragkit, I had no idea Coalkit had slipped away," Silverfeather cried.

"The young ones... Often make stories about Coalkit not being LakeClan, because he doesn't have a father.."

"He has a father," Silverfeather insisted. "But it's no one's business who it is.."

Silverfeather trotted out of the den, quickly and glanced across the camp to a gray tom. Drizzlecloud noticed her signal and followed her out of camp.

"I can tell anyone you need me too."

"That's not what I want," Silverfeather said with frustration.

"Then what!"

"You need to be their father. They need a father.."

"I don't know.."

"Please. Coalkit asks me every night and I see the look in Cragkit's eyes. I can't, I can't do it anymore.."

"Fine. I'm here."

"Thank you."

"I love you, Silverfeather. I.. I don't show it like other toms. But I do. I love you."

"I know," Silverfeather replied before they trotted back to camp.

R.I.P. BUTTERFLYPAW

This young she cat was unfortunate to be in the wrong place, at the wrong time. She was not the primary advocate in the turmoil between Coalkit and other kits but she died because of it.

May LightClan treat her well.

Thanks for reading, voting, commenting and most of all being patient.

Chapter 35

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. (BlueTiger668)

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Zevoras)

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes. (Scorchwing)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Frogheart- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian)

Apprentices:
Commitpaw- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Tidefur

Aurapaw- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68) Mentor: Silvershell

Phantompaw- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Mentor: Oceanheart

Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (Starshine28) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hazelpaw- a fluffy brown furred she cat with amber eyes. (SeasonSnow) Mentor: Silentcry

Amberpaw- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) Mentor: Duskfall

Queens:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (KittyQueenofRandom) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Kit: Icekit (Tom)

Kits:
Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 3 moons.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 3 moons.

Icekit- a young white and brown tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts) 2 moon.

RogueClan-
Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Maple- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Smokey- a golden thick furred tom with a long fluffy tail. He has gray eyes. (caliswaglife) 16 moons.

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10) 14 moons.

Twilight- a short black furred she cat with purple eyes. (D1am0ndgirl) 7 moons.

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. (cocowolf12) 5 moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 5 moons.

Underwood- a black furred tom with spots and speckles that run along his belly. He has brown eyes. 4 moons.

Natasha- a calico furred she cat with ginger and black patches. She has Amber eyes. 4 moons.

Sherlock- a brown furred tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 4 moons.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

Rain pelted the metal shack, and didn't cease. The group of cats huddled tightly, trying to escape the profuse storm and threat of disease.

Twilight and Luna had extended an open invitation- of a shelter- to RogueClan, as they waited for their two members to return home. Even though it had been a few days, Shadow and Lostpath had not returned to RogueClan. The normally calm and collected group was thrown into a panic for their missing clanmates.

If the Hawkwatch took Lostpath and Shadow, when will they come for us? Bone thought silently to himself. He glanced over to Lynch and Llewyn tight in the corner of the shed, fast asleep.

A fear from deep within him, came to light at that moment. Almost as an ominous omen, he sensed this happy life, could not exist. RogueClan would crumble, somehow. *Starting with Shadow and Lostpath...*

"They're back!" Smokey exclaimed, as he spotted they through the break in the shed wall. Ink shot to her paws and through the space in the shed, racing toward Shadow. Llewyn and Lynch quickly woke to the noise, but remained quiet as the two tons reunited with the other rogues.

"Where've you been?" Ink shouted before meeting Shadow's eyes with worry. The black tom was drenched with the downpour of the rain and his eyes were dreary with concern.

"This is bad. We need to get out.."

"What? Shadow, what do you mean?"

"We need to leave," Lostpath repeated boldly, before passing Ink to enter the dry shed. Ink faced Shadow, once more, with pleading eyes.

"Please. What are you talking about?"

"The same reason my father left!"

"Your father? Shadow, what are you.."

"Yes! I can't stay here. These cats... These demons will always exist! We have to get out now! Leave, *forever*.."

"What happened? Why are you acting like this?" Ink pleaded, as tears began to fall down her face. Shadow glanced away with frustration.

"I don't understand," she sobbed quietly.

"Trust me. That's all I ask."

"Alright. I will, but please."

"I can't understand this... Feeling. I can't understand what I've seen, what I've lived through. First it was my father, then my mentor, then my grandfather, and now..." Shadow's voice stopped as it quivered and broke.

"Go on. Please."

"I lost my mother, all my sisters, my friends," Shadow stopped, thinking of his old days practicing with Thornfrost in the Dark Forest. He closed his eyes, painfully, as he continued. "Just when my father.. Had changed. He left. And then, Brinefur. She had no relations. No envy, no ambition. Just love. Just calm. That's why I joined RogueClan, and she's the reason I haven't died yet. She's the reason I met you. Without her, I would've continued down a never-ending spiral of hate, but I didn't. And that's why we have to go."

"Shadow, we can't run away.."

"We've always ran away! That's what RogueClan does. That's what I've done, what any sensible cat would do. Everything I've overcome, everything I've survived, is gone," he said with a heavy heart. "All I want is to live the rest of my life with the cats I care about. The ones that are still here."

"I'm here for you," Ink reminded him. "I love you and I'm not running away from you."

"Promise me. Promise me we'll take anyone in RogueClan willing, and go past the mountains. Past CaveClan and LakeClan, where not even Thunderstar would go. Promise me."

"I promise," Ink whispered before she and Shadow walked out of the rain, flank to flank. The rest of the day, Shadow could not shake his fear as the forest could not shake the tempest.

With a large crack of thunder, the rain began to pour heavier. The rain pelted anyone and anything unguarded, mercilessly, making it impossible to carry on with the tasks of the day. Since the past night, the storm had raged on with no lack of strength, and no break. The usually low creeks along each territory, were now turbid and tumultuous, as they rushed downhill taking simple twigs and new growth of spring with them.

This problem was especially great on the CaveClan territory, where streams and water was abundant, especially in the cave they called home.

"Keep them away from the flooded tunnels," Cinderstar advised Earthstripe discreetly, as they discovered the water line, seeping closer into their main cavern and home.

"It will continue. I can feel it in my bones," Earthstripe replied quietly. The entire clan had an uneasy feeling about the rain, but Cinderstar refused to let it beat them.

"We will brace this. Just as we've braced everything."

"What if it's not enough this time?" Fairshade interjected, a few steps away. He had come in search of his mentor and leader.

"This Cave is stone. We all are stone with it, and we will survive," Cinderstar repeated with utmost belief.

"If I've learned anything from being part of the clans, is that everything dissolves. Nothing stays forever," Fairshade said pessimistically.

"I have to go speak with Timberfall," Earthstripe replied awkwardly, before walking away. Cinderstar glanced at Earthstripe apologetically before addressing his deputy.

"Where did this come from?"

"Spiderstar. I saw him," Fairshade replied and Cinderstar hitched his breath before glancing away.

"He's dead."

"In my sleep. He says something worse is coming. A war the clans won't be able to stop. A blood feud that cannot be resolved by any mediator.."

"CaveClan *will* brace this. But first, we have to stop Hawkwatch. Their group is a deadly and evil cult, that can only ruin the clans. Hawk killed cats, so he must pay," Cinderstar said with a determined focus. Fairshade muttered something under his breath, and Cinderstar glared at him.

"What?"

"*Nothing*. I'll lead a patrol to see how bad the creeks are," Fairshade decided, leaving Cinderstar's prescence. The two were drifting more and more, but neither were able to consider the problem.

Cinderstar walked across camp when he noticed his daughter, sitting off to herself, observing the pouring rain. He trotted over to his daughter, and her amber eyes shifted to him.

"What is it? Is something wrong?" She asked, noticing his frantic tone.

"I.. I need to speak with you."

"Well," Hazelpaw prodded, in a hushed tone.

"Before your mother passed, she shared with me something. Something you cannot repeat, nor would you want to share," Cinderstar struggled to say. *It's time*. He repeated to himself silently. "You are not my kin."

"What? Are you messing with me?"

"I am not. You are not my kin nor Blackfire's kin. You are our daughter by choice," he explained quietly. Hazelpaw faced him, speechless and in disbelief.

"What are you saying? You mean, you lied to me my whole life!" Hazelpaw shouted. "Why!"

"So you would fit in. So you could live a normal clan life," Cinderstar replied.

"This is absurd. Who are my kin, then? Where am I from? I don't..." Fighting the tears back, a part of Hazelpaw knew this day would come. "I don't belong here."

"Yes you do! You're a better apprentice than anyone your age! You have amazing talent!"

"I'm not a clan cat. This wet hole isn't my home!"

"Hazelpaw.."

"Is that even my name?"

"Of course it is," Cinderstar snapped, irritably. "Everything I did for you and my clan has been for the best. Why can't anyone realize that!"

"Anyone who believes you, is an embarrassment to themselves... And the clans," Hazelpaw spat bitterly, before stalking out of the cave and into the rain. The clan had heard the shouting but did not know of what the discussion consisted of.

Amberpaw and Stonepaw watched as Cinderstar stalked back into

his den, and as their friend disappeared through the rain. Amberpaw glanced at Stonepaw with a worried glance and he took a breath.

"We have to go after her, don't we?"

"She's not a mousebrain. She'll come back," Amberpaw murmured, when she caught sight of her own father. Something stirred inside of her, whether it was impulse or sensibility, she could not differentiate.

"Take Silentcry and go find her," Amberpaw muttered before following her father into the warrior's den. It was empty, as all the cats were out of camp or out of their soggy nests. "I want to speak with you."

Sootfall turned to her, his blue eyes wide with surprise. "Amberpaw.. It's not the best time."

"It's never the time, for you. Huh?"

"What're you talking about?" Sootfall exasperated.

"You hate me. You hate that I survived, instead of mom.."

"I don't hate you!" Sootfall insisted, whisker to whisker with his daughter. For the first time, Amberpaw could feel the love from her father, all in a single glance. "I could never hate you."

"Then what?"

"It hurts too much to be around you," he whispered, facing the den's wall. Amberpaw turned away, and to herself, before racing out of the den. *Why can't he love me like all fathers? Why can't I have a normal life?*

To keep her mind from these sickening questions, she found Duskfall and insisted they do something to advance on, while passing times. Duskfall was surprised yet pleased to continue teaching the new battle techniques the rain had postponed.

Until the sky grew darker, they practiced until Duskfall was

satisfied, which was an unlikely occurrence. Amberpaw's mentor always insisted there was more work that needed to be done, but at the end of the day, she said nothing. She simply gave Amberpaw a nod of encouragement before joining her siblings by the fresh-kill pile.

Amberpaw turned her head toward the warrior's den. In her perfect world, she would've seen her father looking on with pride in his daughter's outstanding abilities. But in this case, Sootfall was no where to be found.

Instead, a group a smiling faces that day off to the side, trying to groom their hideously muddy pelts. Stonepaw smiled brightly, followed by Commitpaw who was the first to congratulate Amberpaw at her break through with Duskfall.

"Great job! I told you she'd give in!"

"I don't know. Maybe I got lucky," Amberpaw sighed. Stonepaw shook his head, along with Aurapaw.

"You were amazing!" Phantompaw insisted with a wide smile. Flattered and flustered, Amberpaw drew back and sat beside Commitpaw.

"Have you seen Hazelpaw?" Aurapaw asked after a moment of silence.

"She's in the Medicine Cat den. She's alright, just really shaken. Blazingflame says it might have to do with being a she cat..."

"That is absurd! She's obviously just having a bad day," Commitpaw insisted, flicking Stonepaw upside the head. He gave an apologetic glance them shrugged.

"I'm gonna go talk to her.."

"We're not supposed to," Aurapaw said with a saddened tone. Amberpaw sighed.

"I'll go tomorrow morning then," Amberpaw replied. After concluding their evening by sharing the prey they had caught a few

days previous, the apprentices all retired to their dens. Restless and bothered by the rain, none of them found rest.

But as the night drew on, the rains did not cease, and the water levels of the cave's pool kept rising. Slowly, seeping into the nearest dens, Cinderstar woke, paw deep in water.

Frantic, he raced out of his den to see the water levels continuing to rise. Acting fast he faced to the nursery while alerting the clan.

"Everyone out!"

It wasn't long before the clan woke to the flooding and immediately left the cave, to flee to higher ground. Taking refuge on the talk plateau, the rain still poured down and pelted the cats, but it was better than the risk of drowning in their sleep. The water levels slowly seeped throughout the camp and grew waist high, eventually flooding the entire camp.

Managing to scrap herbs with Hazelpaw's help, Blazingflame wasn't as distressed as most medicine cats would be. It wasn't until she overlooked the camp, that she realized something was wrong.

"Cinderstar! We're missing two cats.." Blazingflame said frantically.

"Oh no," Cinderstar muttered, glancing back at the watery grave. Blazingflame came up beside Cinderstar to avoid mass distress.

"Icekit and Sootfall," she whispered. Cinderstar held his glare at their cave that was once a home, that had now sent two of its members to their death.

"May LightClan welcome them..." While CaveClan faced the harsh realities placed upon their clan, other cats took refuge nearby, exploiting the rain to set themselves in place. In a smaller cave, east of CaveClan yet deeper in the mountains, the cats of the Hawkwatch resided.

Quietly overlooking the land, Hollyfang flexed her claws continually, to suppress her lack of patience. It would be another few days, until the end of the moon before they could enact their plan. There was always something Darkness was waiting for,

whether it was an omen from the sky or a prophecy from the shadows.

"I want to go now," Hollyfang muttered irritably, as Irisstep stepped beside her.

"I know."

"Shut up," Hollyfang spat. She glared at the tom closer now. "You didn't deserve her. I would've kept Wishheart out of this. All of this!"

"You can blame me time after time. Go ahead," Irisstep replied carelessly. "I just want this to be over with."

"We have to do something. Kill something," Hollyfang insisted.

"Yes. I know. As soon as the moon ends, we're heading to CaveClan. That's what Darkness told Sagesmoke.."

"Why does he only talk to her? I can talk too," Hollyfang scowled.

"Sagesmoke and Hawk were close."

"Darkness isn't Hawk."

"But Hawk is Darkness."

"He couldn't.. No, he could never come back? Could he?" She questioned curiously.

"No. Hawk is not coming back."

Merry Christmas, just in case.

R.I.P. ICEKIT

Young and clueless, you followed Sootfall into the tunnels unknowingly. We never were able to see the treachery you would be capable of.

Thank you, WolfishThoughts

R.I.P. SOOTFALL

Formerly a dedicated warrior, a kind soul and longtime warrior of CaveClan, when this simple tom lost everything, he fell apart. Losing bonds and motivation, he never was there for Amberpaw and eventually fell into the trap of suicide as he subjected himself to those tunnels, knowingly.

Thank you, Scorchwing

Chapter 36

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Apprentices:
Cardinalpaw- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat) Mentor: Flamestar

Cloverpaw- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Mentor: Rivertail

Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 3 moons.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 3 moons.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 3 moons.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 2 moons.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 2 moons.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 2 moons.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 2 moons.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 2 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Moonpelt- a white furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Sharpwing- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. (XandarianLord)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Apprentices:
Wildpaw- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue) Mentor: Twistedfoot

Russetpaw- a dark red furred tabby Tom with brown eyes and a

fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites) Mentor: Dustystripe

Stormpaw- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101) Mentor: Duskwater

Batpaw- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette) Mentor: Steelstrike

Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat
with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Ebonypaw- a young black Bombay Tom with dark green eyes and a gray tip tail. (Kat124816) Mentor: Moonbliss

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonpelt

Aloepaw- a light and short gray furred she cat with darker gray patches and blue eyes. (DuskShimmer) Mentor: Ivysong

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. (CeRosette) Kits: Wispkit (she cat), Juniperkit (tom), and Parsleykit (she cat)

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light

brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

Wispkit- a dark blue furred she cat with light gray eyes.

Juniperkit- a dark gray furred tom.

Parsleykit- a fluffy gray furred she cat.

Trotting uphill, the young she cat smiled back at her brother. Cloverpaw and Cardinalpaw reached the base of the towering sycamore. Even through the fiercest storm of all the moons, it still stood ornate and proud.

Cloverpaw rested her head against its intwined branches, feeling once again at home. Only a small drizzle remained in the early morning, but the two apprentices couldn't mind. It was rare they had time to themselves.

"Tonight? Huh?" Cardinalpaw chuckled. Cloverpaw turned to face him, and smiled brightly.

"What do you think she'll name us? I think.. Cardinalflight, or Cardinaltalon is probably the most likely," he said.

"I think Cardinalpool, would be nice. Your blue eyes," she said sanguinely. Her brother chuckled and flicked her with his tail. The two sat in silence, as Cloverpaw was lost in her thoughts. Her gaze was set on the trees with a peculiar thought.

In her mind, she envisioned what it would be like to see her father. She was stepping up to receive her warrior name, and up on the high branch was MountainClan's first leader, Redstar. He was a large dark ginger warrior, with fierce amber eyes. He had long whiskers, and broad features resembling Cardinalpaw very closely.

Below, was a dark furred tom with brighter amber eyes. *Ashfall.. No..* Cloverpaw quickly realized it was Spiderstar, MountainClan's second and most beloved leader. And behind her, stood Cardinalpaw and the person she wished to see most of all. *Dad!*

"Cloverpaw. Wake up, we gotta go back," Cardinalpaw said, prodding his sites with his paw. She woke from the surreal dream, and couldn't help but feel funny. *They're alive. They're not dead... No. They died.*

"Are you alright?"

"I saw dad, Cardinalpaw. I saw him, he looked like you except thinner and he was beside mom," she trailed off as her voice broke. She shut her eyes, from the stinging.

"It was only a dream."

"I know.. But it was... So *real."*

"Come on. The clan is probably awake.." Sprinting back to camp, the two didn't notice the ominous eyes that watched them leave. From far away, the watcher whispered to themselves before leaving the area to return north.

The thick and newly grown canopy of leaves protected MountainClan from the devastating rains the other clans had faced. Uphill, the clan did not experience flooding except full and rapid creeks which were to be avoided at all times. The most common prey near the Cedar Run, rabbits, had been devastated and the prey had vanished since the storm begun.

Swiftfawn had attributed their disappearance to the flooding of their underground dens, but the hunters were confident the prey would return when the season of rain was finished. Shimmerpool and Robinwing were the only ones to hunt during the mass rains, and returned with tiny birds, seeking shelter.

Cloverpaw and Cardinalpaw reached camp, slipping in through the back entrance. Catching sight of them, Rivertail scowled and trotted over to them.

"Flamestar has been looking for you two. We're going to begin as soon as she's ready, while the sky is calm and quiet," Rivertail explained. The two nodded and Cloverpaw began to groom herself subconsciously. She never tried to look nice on most occasions but this called for it. While she did this, Cardinalpaw disappeared into the leader's den, to speak with his mentor privately.

"I personally, do not think you're ready," Rivertail whispered.

"Thanks," Cloverpaw mumbled sourly.

"I don't need your sass," she snorted.

"I didn't mean anything! But I'm ready for this. I've been ready my whole life!"

"Too many warriors have died for us to rush apprentices into this.."

"Rivertail, I'm sorry. I.. Didn't mean anything."

"Jaggedclaw.. Feathershade..." After she muttered the words, Rivertail left the clearing, just as Flamestar and Cardinalpaw excited the leader's den and she announced the ceremony.

"Let all cats of the mountains gather below the great Oak!"

Gradually, everyone left the safety of their dens and ventured out into the clearing. From the nursery, came Webkit who bounded out and onto the boulder central of camp. Leaping up, the kit rested on it, so he'd have optimal viewing for the ceremony. After, came the oldest kits followed by their mother, Blitzfire. Cloudfire came to the front of the ceremony with Swankit, both mother and sister of the two apprentices.

Unfortunately, Thornfrost, Tallcloud, Shimmerpool and Breezetalon were all taking part in a border patrol so could not attend the ceremony. However, Beestorm attended, limping into the center with a pleasant expression.

The kits often were distressed when seeing Beestorm around camp, for the tom had lost one of his legs with his time in the twolegplace. It was an unfortunate sight, but Beestorm never seemed to be

affected by his loss.

"We have been burdened with a powerful storm in the past few days. But, as a small drizzle is all that remains. We shall hold a ceremony for our eldest apprentices whose warrior-ships they have long been waiting for," Flamestar declared. Motioning for them to step forward, she continued.

"Cloverpaw, you have grown in strength and moons since you first became an apprentice. You have exemplified your value to this clan through your strong will and enthusiasm to serve your clan. Cloverpaw, do you promise to uphold the law of MountainClan and LightClan?"

"I do, I really do," she said with wide eyes.

"Then by the power which LightClan have invested in me, I name you Cloverleaf. May you always carry the spirit of LightClan in your heart," Flamestar said, touching noses with the apprentice before continuing.

"Cardinalpaw, you have also shown us your immense strength, not only that of the physical but of character. You have been a great apprentice, friend and example to our younger members and I very honored to be naming you today," Flamestar said with great pride in her apprentice's accomplishments.

"Cardinalpaw, so you promise to uphold the law of MountainClan and let LightClan guide you throughout your life?"

"I do," he vowed.

"Then by the power LightClan entrusted in me, I now name you Cardinalflight. May LightClan, and the spirit of *Redflight* guide you as a warrior," Flamestar said before touching noses with him. The ceremony concluded and Cloverleaf was in silence.

"You.. You have Redstar's name?"

"Yes. I... Couldn't use dad's name, so I wanted to honor him," Cardinalflight explained. Cloverleaf embraced her brother resting her head on his neck.

"I love you."

"I love you too, sis."

As a ceremony was concluding, another was just beginning. "All cats of StoneClan, gather in the camp clearing!" Sleetstar called out amongst the clan. Earlier in the morning, far from MountainClan, StoneClan had been struggling with the fierce storm. As the many days of rain were coming to an end, and a quiet drizzle was all that remained.

"I have called you here to recognize and reward the accomplishments of our young apprentices, before the rain stops us once more. Wildpaw, please step forward."

The white furred tom whipped around, glancing at his leader with wide eyes. The members of StoneClan now turned to him. Surely, it wasn't time. *I'm not ready,* he thought to himself silently.

"Proving yourself continually during training, you have earned what you shall receive today. Wildpaw, do you promise to uphold the law of StoneClan, and in doing so, pledge your life to the service of StoneClan?"

"I do," he replied in a promise. He wanted nothing else than to serve the clan, that he chose as his home.

"Then by the power invested in me, as leader of StoneClan, from this day forward you shall be known as Wildfire. May LightClan light your path," Sleetstar replied, touching noses with the tom. He stepped back to Ivorypaw, who immediately congratulated him.

"Good job! You deserved it more than anyone," Ivorypaw smiled. He gave a curt nod of thanks before sitting next to her. Wildfire felt different. Suddenly, he felt a world of new possibilities and responsibilities placed upon him.

"Russetpaw," the ginger tom stepped up and looked up to his leader with pride. He had longed and waited for this day for a very long tom. "Do you promise to serve and abide by the laws of StoneClan?"

"I do." An audible scoff came from a few of the other apprentices,

including Vinepaw and Dreampaw who held a strong disdain for the tom. Since the incident in the woods, both had avoided the tom and realized his inner faults.

"From this day forward you shall be known as Russetcarve. May you follow in the pawsteps of the great cats that came before you..."

Russetcarve glanced at his paws quietly. He knew he had a choice to make. *Would he follow the pawsteps of his father, or go a different path?* Only time would tell. Sleetstar continued the ceremony and Batpaw became Batfur.

"Stormpaw, step forward," Sleetstar continued the ceremony with the dark tabby tom who was calm and collected as he stepped forward. "You have also shown great promise in training through your patience and obedience, more than anyone. From this day forward you shall be known as Stormshade."

Before anyone could question why he had not sworn his allegiance, Stormshade stepped forward. "It causes me great distress to have it happen this way, but Sleetstar and I have discussed it, and I am going to live in another clan."

Many of the other Warriors were immediately taken aback, and saddened. Everyone had a fond spot for the tom, and no one could say anything against him.

"I have been meeting someone privately for the past few moons, and I have decided to join him, in CaveClan. This does not change my respect for this clan. I have simply chosen a different path. I'll leave tonight or as soon as Sleetstar wishes," Stormshade explained.

"I honor your decision, and he shall keep his warrior name despite your decision. For you earned it in StoneClan," Sleetstar announced with a pleasant expression. "That concludes the ceremony. However, we have some news. Late last night, the storm laid seize to the forest. Luckily, our camp was without damage, but one of our patrols has not returned. We must send s search party, as soon as possible. And when our clan is on its paws, we must seek out LakeClan and lend help in anyway possible."

Whispers and concerns rapidly rolled throughout the clan. The gray and white tortoiseshell silenced the commotion with a flick of her tail.
"We will lend the help only after StoneClan is safe. We do not know when they could benefit us one day."

Before Sleetstar and Twistedfoot addressed the clan on specific tasks and a search patrol, commotion would reign once more. Tigerstorm, shot into the clearing and frantically searched for her leader.

"Sleetstar!" She called out.

"What is it?"

"Bluewisp is gone. She left in the night, and I only woke when you addressed the clan so I didn't notice," Tigerstorm rambled on with distress in her heart. The permanent and head queen was almost due to deliver a new litter. If she had ventured into the storm, there could be a hazardous situation.

Immediately Aspenfur ran out the clan entrance, followed by Sharpwing, Tangledwood and Deathclaw. Mate and mother, the clan was placed into even more a despair over her absence.

"Twistedfoot, I'll lead a patrol to go after them," Sleetstar decided looking toward the other clan members for assurance.

"I'll stay here Sleetstar. But you should know, there were six in that patrol. Moonbliss, Dawncloud, Moonpelt, Ebonypaw, Fernpaw and Aloepaw. None of them have returned," her deputy whispered.

"Thank you," she whispered in return before taking Sprucestrike and Earthfoot to find the others.

Taking leaps and bounds over the stone burdened land, the toms wasted no time. The land had turned into a marsh over night. Pools of water were everywhere, some deeper and more misleading than others. The slight drizzle suddenly grew more violent and deadly.

"Stupid storm," Tangledwood muttered as he felt the downpour. His senses were on edge and he could tell it would continue.

Aspenfur and the young toms took off toward the lake shore, where the patrol had gone to check water levels and never returned. Initially it was Moonbliss's and Dawncloud's idea to immerse the apprentices in training during the harsh elements. It was only now, that they could see it was a terrible and misfortunate idea.

It was not long before a cry for help was heard. It came from near across the cedars that lined the shore. Aspenfur followed the voice until he peered down the hill, and toward the lake. "Oh no..."

The water level had surged past the cedar trees and further in land. The hill where Aspenfur stood, was the last few paces he could take without swimming into the watery unknown.

"Help!" The hoarse voice called once more. Peering up, he saw that about a tree length away, was Fernpaw. The apprentice was gripping to a cedar tree, claws deep into the trunk. Below her, the former creek was flooded over, creating a violent current below.

"We're coming!" Sharpwing called as he ran past Aspenfur. The older tom hesitated as Sharpwing stepped into the flood water.

Deathclaw and Tangledwood glanced at Aspenfur, who tensed. As much as they wanted to help Sharpwing, Aspenfur took off with Deathclaw. Bluewisp was too important to them. Tangledwood chose to follow Sharpwing into the water.

Dragging his paws with him, Sharpwing trudged through the thick layers of mud. The fresh rain began to pound on him, and his sight was fogged. His foot left the bottom of the ground, and he steadily began swimming toward Fernpaw. The undercurrent threatened to drag him down, and only his snout managed to stay above the water.

"Go back!" Fernpaw cried out painfully. She could see Sharpwing's struggling and anguish. Fernpaw feared for the trouble about to ensue. Sharpwing could not break to mutter words, for catching his breath was hard enough.

"Sharpwing look out!" Tangledwood gasped as he heard a sharp crack, and a large branch plummeted into the water below. As it

impacted with the water, it sent the current and other debris Sharpwing's way, and he disappeared under it.

"No!" Tangledwood cried out as he hurtled into the water. Wasting no time, he reached Fernpaw's tree faster than Sharpwing could've and scouted for his brother. He looked into the muddy depths but saw nothing. His brother never emerged.

"My patrol," Fernpaw said, quivering. "They disappeared. In the storm.. Tangledwood, I'm really scared.."

"Shh. Take my scruff and hold onto me. We're going to leap out as far as we can and swim the rest.."

"No! No.. We won't.. The debris."

"Hold on. The rain is slowing but it won't stop for long," Tangledwood observed. Fernpaw shuddered before taking his scruff in her teeth.

Together, they leaping into the water before profusely swimming to dry ground. Every stroke was a struggle for Tangledwood who could not keep his head above water and support Fernpaw. Touching the ground, Tangledwood rose in the shallow end, gasping and fighting his exhaustion.

Fernpaw quickly retreated to the wet grass, clinging to the solid earth. She panted and fell to the ground. How long had she held onto the tree?

"We.. Have to go back. The others are finding Bluewisp.."

"Ebonypaw is gone. I.. I don't know.."

"Sharpwing is too. But StoneClan needs us," Tangledwood said slowly raising, and languidly crossing the hill. Fernpaw followed without another word, her tears masked by the rain.

A little down the shore near the lost forest, Aspenfur observed two bodies, drifting downstream with the debris. Aspenfur and Deathclaw narrowed their eyes, yet they barely recon fixed the bodies of Moonpelt and Ebonypaw, mangled by the storm's wrath.

Being close enough to the earth, Deathclaw waded into the water and caught one of the bodies, pulling it in, before retrieving the other. Aspenfur observed the two but said no word.

Where is my mate? Where is my daughter? Bluewisp and Aloepaw were yet to be found. There were no words to be said for the two bodies recovered. It was a tragedy.

"Bluewisp!" Deathclaw finally called out. Suddenly a figure emerged from the lost forest, racing toward them. Aspenfur raced toward the figure, until he realized, it was not the silvery pelt of Bluewisp, but Dawncloud's calico pelt.
Her eyes noticed the two toms and she frantically took action.

"Hurry!" She called out. Following Dawncloud into the dark, yet sheltered forest, it was only a few paces before Aspenfur was united with Bluewisp.

"Bluewisp!" He said, embracing his mate, as she lay silently. When the embrace provided no reaction and no warmth, Aspenfur pulled back, to see her lifeless, still eyes. Beside her, were three silent mounds still suckling.

R.I.P. SHARPWING
Valiant and true, you did your best yet you have fallen as many others. May your kin and loved ones recover from your most tragic loss.
XandarianLord I have valued your friendship in the past, and I am very saddened to see you have no interest in this story anymore.

R.I.P. EBONYPAW
Brother and apprentice, your loss was earlier and unfortunate. May LightClan treat you kindly. @Kat124816

R.I.P. MOONPELT
A young and talented warrior, your loss is an unfortunate one. May your already struggling kin, survive and overcome the loss of their most beloved brother that was you.

Thank you WolfishThoughts for your many contributions and for following the novels through thick and thin. I love you and I loved Moonpelt.

R.I.P. BLUEWISP
Mother to all, to made such sacrifices for your clan throughout your life. Never was there anyone more good of spirit, but you loved Aspenfur and followed Thunderstar and the StormClam empire.

You sacrificed your first litter for the sake of the journey to the forest, unknowingly creating the motivation for Hawk.

When arriving at the forest you fostered Tangledwood, Deathclaw, and Sharpwing who would've never survived without being nursed.

And you gave birth to Dreampaw, Aloepaw, and Kindlepaw who are still learning and growing with us today. May Aloepaw's fate be shown to the reader's next chapter...

And may you rest happily in LightClan forever and ever.

That concludes the unfortunate death toll for this chapter.
Although, I did provide some happiness. I tried.
Thanks for reading, voting and sharing your comments it means a lot!

Chapter 37

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Cardinalflight- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverleaf- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Apprentices:
Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 3 moons.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 3 moons.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 3 moons.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 2 moons.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 2 moons.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 2 moons.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 2 moons.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 2 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. (BlueTiger668)

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Zevoras)

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes.

(Jeweledstories)

Frogheart- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian)

Stormshade- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101)

Commitfall- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurashine- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomfrost- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Apprentices:
Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (_crows) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hazelpaw- a fluffy brown furred she cat with amber eyes. (SeasonSnow) Mentor: Silentcry

Amberpaw- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) Mentor: Duskfall

Queens:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (KittyQueenofRandom) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Kits:
Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 4 moons.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 4 moons.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears,

tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Wildfire- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Russetcarve- a dark red furred tabby tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites)

Batfur- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette)

Apprentices:
Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonbliss

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

Wispkit- a dark blue furred she cat with light gray eyes.

Juniperkit- a dark gray furred tom.

Parsleykit- a fluffy gray furred she cat.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes

and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom), Angelkit (she cat), and Ospreykit (tom)

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Howlingpaw- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) Mentor: Cougarfur

Scalypaw- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) Mentor: Dragonstone

Kits:
Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 3 moons.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 3 moons.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her

legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 2 moons.

Talonkit- a silver Bengal tom with defined black stripes that give him his name. He has light golden eyes. 1 moon.

Ospreykit- a silver tom with pale blue green eyes. 1 moon.

Angelkit- a silver-blue Bengal she cat with pale gray eyes. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

Across the quiet moor, the many cats huddled together as they met united at the base of Void's stone or Coldstar's grave, where the leaders were struck down many moons ago. It was the most central spot on the StoneClan territory and barely any cat remembered the slaughter that happened that day.

It was past the full moon, where the Clans met united. The rains had prevented them from joining. Now, LakeClan, MountainClan, CaveClan and StoneClan joined together. RogueClan did not arrive to the moors, except a single dark furred tom, by the name of Shadow.

"We shall begin!" A voice announced as soon as Leopardstar, the final leader took her place amongst the others. She began immediately under insistent pleas from the others. Everyone was eager to know LakeClan's status as the floods would've been worse on their territory.

"LakeClan has faced a rough moon. Butterflypaw, drowned in a training accident while we lost Troutpaw, Mistpaw and Blossumpaw, and to the horrible floods. We place our utmost sincerity when we give our sorrow for your losses and struggles all the clans have faced," Leopardstar said before stepping back. Her announcement was very brief, but she said only what the Clans needed to hear.

"CaveClan also faced the harsh of the storm as our entire cave was

flooded, resulting in the loss of Icekit and Sootfall. But, we soon resumed control of our home and are fairing fine now that the crisis of the rains is over. We have three new warriors, Commitfall, Aurashine and Phantomfrost," Cinderstar declared. In unison the Clans chanted the names of the new warriors, before Flamestar stepped forward.

Wildfire glanced across the clearing at his siblings. He was the biggest, but Commitfall was taller and Phantomfrost leaner. And Aurashine, bore a strikingly beautiful resemblance to their mother, Shymask. He grinned before catching Aurashine's stare, she smiled at him, chuckling.

He had always been so close with his sister. The only thing he regretted about joining StoneClan, was leaving her.

"MountainClan, fortunately, did not lose anyone in the rain. We are very thankful, but prey will surely be difficult in the next few moons. However, we have two new warriors. Cardinalflight and Cloverleaf!" Again the clans chanted their names. "MountainClan also offers our condolences and we will do all we can to help the bordering Clans, in the coming moons."

Many cats cheered at his statement, but Fairshade scoffed to himself. *Showing off again, Flamestar...*

"What, Fairshade?" Cinderstar whispered, hearing his utterance.

"Nothing," he replied. Next, Sleetstar stepped forward, her deputy, Twistedfoot right behind her.

"StoneClan faced losses beyond compare to anything in the last moons. Our beloved queen, Bluewisp died in the midst of the storm, giving birth to three kits. Tigerstorm had generously volunteered to remain a queen until the kits are able to survive on their own. Sharpwing, Moonpelt, Ebonypaw, and Aloepaw, were taken in the storm and these tragic losses have made a lasting impact on StoneClan. Moonbliss, who formerly mentored Ebonypaw, will now mentor Dreampaw who was mentored by Moonpelt," Sleetstar's words rung in the air for sometime. All remained silent, until the representative from RogueClan continued.

"There has been no sign of them," Shadow said. To the clan's surprise, Shadow was the only representative from RogueClan, even though Llewyn was very eager to participate in the clan's governance. "But they will be striking soon. Fate has never been kind to the clans."

Sleetstar glanced downward before looking up to the other leaders, and reaching Cinderstar's intent glance. The older warrior, met her glance. He shook his head, and his blue eyes went wide.

"What are you proposing Shadow?" Cinderstar accused, bitterly.

"It is my belief, that the Clans were always meant to meet this fate. The Clans were always meant to face destruction. Cats are not meant to live this way, fighting battle after battle, and dying at the paws of evil intentions. I, am leading a group far from here. We shall not start a new clan, but survive as a group of individuals. I will not follow the stars but my own beliefs," Shadow declared. His statement was bold and thought provoking.

"You're absurd!" Flamestar spat. "LightClan has always guided us. LightClan is with us."

"LightClan doesn't care about all of us," Shadow replied. "You cannot escape the evil that circulates the Clans."

"Leave at once," Cinderstar requested.

"You're making a mistake. Blackice knows this. She will tell you."

"I will not!" Blackice objected. Eyes turned to her and she looked to her paws. "I will not speak my opinions on this without the permission from my authority. It is not respectful to do otherwise."

"I have lived in the world without the Clans, and I will never subject any cat to the life.." Cinderstar's words hung in the air, sending chills through many. After the moment of silence, Shadow prepared to leave, heading for the lost forest.

"I'll come back in a moon, when half of you change your minds."

The gathering ended shortly after that. Loved ones, such as

Twanyowl and Winterleaf, had to say goodbye. Finchfeather looked at them, knowing and jealous. *Why can't I have love like that?*

The she cat glanced over to Badgerclaw whom others were giving their condolences to him for the loss of his daughter. Finchfeather looked on, longingly.

"Is.. Is everything alright?" Cougarfur asked, as he watched the she cat. He sat right beside her, but he felt worlds apart. His friend was always so distant, every since her father, Maplewood left.

"Fine! Do you think," Finchfeather began but pulled back. *He'd leave Moondust for me*. "No, I'm sorry. That was a stupid question."

"It's alright. I say stupid things all the time!" Cougarfur chuckled, eyes focused on Finchfeather.

"Yep."

"Hey!" He exclaimed, nudging her with his paw. "But really. If you ever need to talk to anyone, I'm here for you." Finchfeather nodded before looking across the mass of cats. Flickerpaw was in an exciting conversation with the new warrior, Cardinalflight and Jaypaw, a MountainClan apprentice.

Finchfeather trotted over and with the flick of her tail, summoned her apprentice. "Come on, Flickerpaw!"

Flickerpaw was reluctant, to say goodbye. She gradually stood and took off for her mentor. Jaypaw sighed, other apprentices were so interesting to talk to. The blue-gray tabby tom stood himself, and took off for his mentor.

Cougarfur collected Howlingpaw and LakeClan made their way back home. Winterleaf noticed her Clan leaving and looked toward Twanyowl.

"Twanyowl, I'm sorry," she whispered as she pulled away from their embrace. She trotted away quickly before she changed her mind, but Twanyowl caught up with her.

"Winterleaf!"

"Yes," she answered, whipping around to face him.

"I love you."

"I love you," she whispered as she touched noses with him once more. More pain than battle scars, was leaving Twanyowl.

"Winterleaf, I want to join LakeClan. I can't stand being apart any longer. I'll do whatever it takes!" Twanyowl exclaimed.

"I want that, more than you know. But I'm not letting you give up your Clan for me. Wait until next gathering, tell Flamestar in the meantime and I'll tell Leopardstar," Winterleaf said. The two departed but Winterleaf caught Blackice in the corner of her eye. The white she cat chased down the dark furred she cat, and she whipped around.

"Winterleaf," Blackice gasped.

"Blackice, I'm so sorry. I heard about your brother.."

"Thanks. I just can't believe he's gone. That everyone I love keeps dying," Blackice replied.

"Don't say that!"

"It's true," Blackice stated. "I have to go. Stay safe."

Blackice watched her friend leave, catching up with her Clan, but glancing over her shoulder. Sighing, Blackice did the same.

Thinking of Sharpwing, only caused pain. Serving her clan pushed everything away, temporarily, until nightmares revisited her in her sleep. Or worse.

Blackice was the last to enter camp that night, the quiet whispers of Vinepaw and Fernpaw were the only sound. Duskwater chewed on a mouse's bone, as she kept vigil over the Clan. The cold stone, chilled Blackice's paws as she stood there, for many moments.

Sighing she passed the two apprentices, and slipped into the warrior's den. Finding her nest, she glanced over at Steelstrike, not

too far away. The tom's belly was exposed but his sleep was peaceful, unlike Dustystripe who muttered and snored throughout the night. *Maybe... No*.

The burden was too heavy. She could not love anyone, or be with anyone until she did right. All she envisioned was Hawk's blood on her claws. All she envisioned was his lifeless eyes. She had yet to envision her life with a tom.

Placing her head down, she grew tense as she shut her eyes. Sleep came gradually, but Blackice did not enjoy subtle dreams of the stars or of LightClan's glory. She experienced nights of endless restlessness. Uncomfortable had reached a new meaning with her.

Awaking in her dream, she immediately faced the eternal gaze of Sunlight. Her presence was constant and the worst burden, besides the deaths of those closest to her.

"You return."

"I must," Blackice muttered.

"After last night, I thought you might take a swim and not return," Sunlight said. Her eyes were sharp and focused.

"Well. Get on with it."

"I admire your resilience dear," Sunlight stated, before a change of character. Her claws were unsheathed as she stepped forward. "But you will submit."

"I will not."

"Do you not understand? Do you not care?" Sunlight exasperated before batting her paws across Blackice's face. The claws became caught in her skin and ripped the fur, leaving scars. "He will destroy everything. He will kill everyone you love."

"He already has. Giving you a body won't help!"

"Let me help you."

"No."

"He turned my children against each other. I watched each of them die before their time!" Sunlight hissed.

"No."

"This battle, your destiny, was foretold far before your time! Light is supposed to battle Dark. You cannot change it."

"If you represent light, I would rather die than be host to you!" Blackice spat, in and impulsive haste. Sunlight stepped back and sheathed her claws.

"So be it."

Waking with a jump, Blackice's eyes adjusted to the shadows of the warrior's den. Looking to her right, she noticed a dark figure at the exit. Blinking, she recognized Airflight.

"Come on morning beauty," he scoffed. Blackice frowned before flicking her tail and taking after him.

The sun was just peaking over the mountains. She had not been asleep for long, and the rays of light had yet to touch the StoneClan moors. Following Airflight, Blackice was groggy and her mind was not as sharp.

"Airflight, what are we doing?"

"Running," he said before breaking into a sprint. Following the tom, Blackice did her best to keep up. It was only after she began panting and tripping over herself, that she came to a slow half.

Airflight glanced back, and cursed before turning around and racing back to her. His eyes appeared furious and the hairs on his pelt stood on edge.

"You haven't stayed in shape!"

"I haven't."

"Why not?" Airflight questioned boldly.

"Does this even matter anymore?"

"Of course it does."

"Running won't bring Cedarlily back," Blackice muttered sourly.

Instantly, Airflight whipped around. The tom would've hit her if he had not noticed the fresh claw marks across her cheek. Stepping closer, his thoughts changed.

"What happened to your face?"

"What is that supposed to mean!"

"No. Look," he said, gesturing to a shallow puddle, left from the floods. Blackice scoffed before looking into the puddle. A gasp left her mouth, as she noticed huge scars across her cheek, only just beginning to scab over.

"Did you scratch yourself?"

"No. I couldn't have.."

"Did you fight with someone?"

"No! Well not..." Blackice started before she caught the look on Airflight's face. She grunted before taking off toward home.

"Blackice! What the dung?"

"Stop! Stop looking at me like that!"

"What! Like what?"

"Like I'm your apprentice. Like I'm some helpless little she kit, that needs protecting!"

"You are," he muttered bitterly. Blackice glared coldly at him, before continuing on her course. "Hey!"

What? Blackice screamed silently and she turned to face him, once

more.

"You'll always be my apprentice. Your actions and behavior are my responsibility," he replied.

"Nice try. But you're officially the worst mentor ever," Blackice chuckled before taking off toward camp.

Merry Christmas.
Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

If you ever request more "time" for your cat, you'll regret it! I don't have time for disrespectful owners who are only obsessed with their cats.

R.I.P. ALOEPAW
@DuskShimmer

R.I.P. TROUTPAW
@helloimsanta

R.I.P. MISTKIT
@Snowstarrr

R.I.P. BLOSSUMPAW
@Lilacfur

Chapter 38

(Please notify me on grammatical errors. I'm rushing to get two out in one night. Thank you.)

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Cardinalflight- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverleaf- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Apprentices:
Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 3 moons.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 3 moons.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 3 moons.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 2 moons.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 2 moons.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 2 moons.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 2 moons.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 2 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. (BlueTiger668)

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Zevoras)

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Duskfall- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Frogheart- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian)

Stormshade- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101)

Commitfall- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurashine- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomfrost- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Apprentices:
Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (_crows) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hazelpaw- a fluffy brown furred she cat with amber eyes. (SeasonSnow) Mentor: Silentcry

Amberpaw- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) Mentor: Duskfall

Queens:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (KittyQueenofRandom) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Kits:
Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 4 moons.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 4 moons.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

Screaming and howling wildly, the young she cat hissed, trying to throw off her opponent. Her strength depleted, and her enemy stronger, fighting was helpless.

"Say it!" Bearkit squealed.

"Dumbutt!" Foxkit cursed at her brother. She refused to give up, trying to shake him. *I can't give up*.

"No. Say the word. Give up," he demanded, jumping on top of her.

As he knocked the breath out of her, the word did as well, despite her gallant effort.

"Mercy..."

"How hard was that?" Bearkit challenged with a satisfied grin.

"You always win," Foxkit growled.

"Well, Foxkit.. You always win races.. And, oh! You always know stuff!"

"Yeah. But when is that ever going to be useful?" She mumbled.

"Foxkit!" Bearkit exclaimed, plopping down beside his sister. "Being a warrior isn't just about being strong, fast and amazing like me! It's about.. Being good."

"I don't know."

"Hey! If you can't be a warrior, maybe you can be leader, queen or a medicine cat!"

"A medicine cat," Foxkit murmured. She had never considered the field before. Both her parents were warriors and she aspired to be like them.

"Yeah. Blazingflame was so nice to me when I swallowed that bug! Well... First she gave me a herb that made me throw up! It was disgusting! Then, she gave me honey after it was all over.." Bearkit rambled on, as Foxkit listened patiently.

"That's quite an interesting story," Stonepaw said from a few tail lengths away. The two kits whipped around and smiled at the older apprentice.

"Hi Stonepaw!"

"Yeah... Hi," Foxkit giggled.

"Are you going to go on a patrol, tonight?" Bearkit asked curiously.

"Yeah! Actually, I was going to find Fairshade now but you two are more entertaining," Stonepaw explained with a bright smile. Foxkit giggled, with unmoving eyes.

"Tell us everything about it!"

"I will," Stonepaw said, before leaving the two kits. He trotted toward the deputy who was surrounded by warriors, directing each to a task.

The tall young tom glanced over the cats with narrowed eyes, while deciding. "On the hunting patrol we'll have Earthstripe, Oceanheart, Frostycloud and Commitfall."

Hmm. They usually do regular patrols. Earthstripe, Oceanheart and Frostycloud were all strong cats, talented in battle tactics.

"The border patrol will be Silentcry, Duskfall, and..." Silently, Stonepaw hoped for Fairshade to say Birchshiver. Mentors would automatically bring their apprentices on tasks with them, unless otherwise said. Stonepaw enjoyed doing everything with Hazelpaw and Amberpaw, and it had been awhile since that occurred. "And.. Tidefur!"

Sighing, Stonepaw retreated to the apprentice's den, to wait for further instruction. It was always a let down when things wouldn't go one's way.

Birchshiver and Frostycloud had been very depressed in the last moon, due to the loss of their only son, Icekit. He valued both the warriors immensely. Stonepaw was certain that they were the best warriors all the Clans had to offer.

As Stonepaw's thoughts travelled, his father, Shiftclaw approached him. The large wildcat tom was a quiet individual, yet loyal to his kin.

"Stonepaw," he began as he sat beside him. Stonepaw perked up.

"Father. Uh.. How are you?"

"Good. And you?"

"Fine. I wanted to go out today, but it's alright. No big deal.."

"Listen, I.. Wanted to talk to you about something," Shiftclaw replied. His son could sense his nervous tendencies and was immediately alarmed.

"Is something wrong? Is mom alright?"

"Everything's fine. It's just that, the gathering. Shadow's words really made me think. And I've really thought about it," his father said uneasily. His eyes searched Stonepaw's for a reply.

"About what?"

"Our family. I think, it's time for us to leave."

"What!" Stonepaw exclaimed catching some unwanted attention. His clanmates had picked up in the intensity of their conversation. Stonepaw quickly lowered his tone to a whisper. "I mean, what do you mean *leave*?"

"It's not safe here. In the Clans..."

"Dad, it's not safe out there. Besides, I could never leave *my clan*, *my friends,"* Stonepaw said. Shiftclaw sighed before looking to Stonepaw with concern.

"Did I ever tell you about my time in MountainClan? About how I was friends with Flamestar and Wolfheart?" Shiftclaw said with a subtle grin. Stonepaw grew calmer and chuckled.

"Mom told me tons of stories..."

"I was a young rogue until I joined MountainClan. Flamestar and Wolfheart were my best friends. When Wolfheart died... We all felt the pain," Shiftclaw explained, fighting through the emotional pull. "But the point is. Leaving them was the hardest choice I had to make. Leaving CaveClan could be the hardest choice you will have to face."

Stonepaw took a deep breath and looked his father in the eye. "Have you spoke with mother?"

"I will. I wanted to speak with you first, and give you time to think about it. I have to go, but we'll discuss this later, as a family," he said. Watching his father join his mother for their last meal of the day.

The couple were so loving, Silvershell licked him affectionately on the cheek, and he nuzzled his nose into the crook of her neck. He loved his parents. He loved their love.

Gazing across the stone ceiling, every crook and bend in the cavern, and the subtle condescension that sometimes formed drops. The cave was cool, yet not the frost bitten cold of leaf bare, but the windless chill. The air of he cave was conditioned to their need, blocking out most of nature's elements. Stonepaw only thought of it as, home.

And home, he decided it would be. *I can't leave. I can't run away*. Meanwhile, as Stonepaw and his kin contemplated their future, the Dusk patrol was long the northern border.

Climbing and traipsing over the mountain's figure, the sunset's shadows cascaded over the rocks, putting the patrol in the shadows. Over the CaveClan, the remaining light illuminated the long golden grass and the patch of tightly bound birch trees, and finally the subtle creeks that weaved in and out of the patches of trees.

It's so beautiful. Amberpaw thought to herself. The world before her was magnificent, and something she had never witnessed. The lake shimmered in the golden light, given by the sun. The sky was painted in glorious colors of violets, blues and rose.

"Is this your first time?" Silentcry asked from behind her. Amberpaw didn't reply but it was already assumed.

"Be careful. The rocks are unsteady near the edge. Even though the fall isn't great, you could still be injured," Silentcry added on. Amberpaw, suddenly alarmed, cast her gaze downward, where there lay a drop that all cats could land on four paws. But, not all cats could land healthy on all four paws.

Amberpaw turned back and stood flank to flank with Hazelpaw, as

they followed Duskfall, who was leading the patrol. The young she cat was a great warrior, taking each of her steps with care and precision. There was never a time when she lost focus of her purpose.

To their surprise, Duskfall stopped suddenly, and lifted her head upward. Inhaling the scents of the area, she shuddered and glanced back at them.

"What is it?" Tidefur spoke up from the back.

"I don't know.. It.."

"I don't smell anything," Hazelpaw murmured, but quickly added on. "I'm probably wrong.."

Duskfall signaled with her tail, for them to halt, and she progressed forward a bit. Examining the area, she stood back.

"It's gone. I thought.."

"You thought correctly," a voice chief from the rocks and mountains the shadows now covered. Duskfall whipped around, alarmed, but now sure of what she had smelled.

"MountainClan," she murmured only to the patrol. But emerging from the shadows, was not MountainClan.

"Greetings, CaveClan," a gray furred tom, declared. None of them recognized the tom. None of them had a chance to run.

"Who are you?" Duskfall demanded as they cornered the patrol. It was the drop, or the enemy.

"My apologies. I am Darkness. If you cooperate, the evening will go smoothly and only one of you, *may* die."

"Die? No one is dying!" Duskfall shouted, as she shot forward. Darkness expected this and instead of handing I the battle himself, Reachingbreeze and Hollyfang were happy to take charge. They shot forward and crushed her attempt. Reachingbreeze struggled by holding her to the ground, as Hollyfang nipped her on the neck.

Ravenpaw emerged and took Amberpaw by surprise, pinning the she cat almost immediately. Sagesmoke chose to give Hazelpaw the option to submit, and the apprentice did, lowering into submission. Tidefur struggled to help his sister but Irisstep gave him no opportunity.

Irisstep and Hollyfang now joined in on tackling Tidefur and nipping at his hind legs, and laughing at him as he failed and fell. Biting his ear, the young tom screamed as Hollyfang ripped it off with glee. Irisstep pinned the tom, as Duskfall was thrown into a panic.

"Stop! Get away from him," she hissed savagely. With her passion and strength alone, she threw Reachingbreeze, the larger opponent to the ground. Duskfall managed to beat Reachingbreeze with all her power, furiously biting the tom and putting all her force into the battle.

But when she had overcome the tom, she looked to see that there was no battle to be one. The rest of the patrol was overtaken, and the enemies had her siblings under their claws. *Take care of them. Take care of them*. Duskfall obeyed the wants of her deceased parents, and submitted.

"Thank you, *finally,"* Darkness sneered before turning to the others. "Now, which one of you is blood of a leader?"

The patrol stayed silent. Amberpaw glanced at Hazelpaw with a worry, but Hazelpaw didn't look back. *No...*

"We have chosen to not cooperate," Duskfall retorted. Darkness held her glance with a hidden amusement.

"Very well. Hollyfang, take of his other ear," Darkness ordered motioning to Tidefur. The young tom struggled as Hollyfang laughed.

"No! Not him!" Duskfall spat bitterly, struggling as they held her back.

"Cooperate," Darkness threatened, with a smirk.

"Don't do it," Tidefur cringed as Hollyfang licked his ear, and bit down, tugging on it in a teasing fashion. Duskfall couldn't stand it. She couldn't stand her siblings in pain.

"Stop! I'll.."

"What? Stop, Hollyfang. She has something to say."

"I will cooperate," Duskfall replied bitterly.

"Perfect. Who has the blood of a *star*?"

"I do. I am daughter of Coldstar," she replied quickly. Silentcry and Tidefur struggled in the jaws of the enemy but it was no use.

"Coldstar has passed. We need the now," Crimsonclaw brought up, smirking at Duskfall. She cursed, before watching Crimsonclaw glance over them.

"Cinderstar had a litter. Those two look old enough.."

"Cinderstar's kin died of blackcough," Silentcry said with beady eyes.

"How opportune that would be for you? But it doesn't work that way," Crimsonclaw snapped.

Hazelpaw became panicked with every near word. Because the truth was, she wasn't Cinderstar's kin, even though they thought she was. And if the Hawkwatch looked at the two apprentices, Amberpaw has a closer resemblance to Cinderstar then she ever had.

"It's me! I don't look like Cinderstar.. But I swear on LightClan, it's me.." Before Hazelpaw finished, Crimsonclaw had stalked up to her. In one quick move, the she cat had cut her on the flank. The cut, was not deep enough too kill her immediately, but blood immediately began to drip onto the stone.

"From this blood, we symbolize the blood in which Drogo chose, the blood of a true leader. From this blood sacrifice, bring forth Drogo's spirit," Darkness proclaimed, over the blood.

Stepping back, the Hawkwatch looked up, and waited. It took minutes of silence, until Duskfall had the courage to address it.

"What are you waiting for!"

"It didn't work," Darkness retorted, his eyes shifted to Crimsonclaw.

"It will! You said tonight! Right here! We waited on these rocks all day! It's now," she screamed before stalking over to Silentcry. Her claws flared and her heart fiery, she slashed at the young she cat and struck her throat. Blood was out poured and she stepped back.

"He's not the one!" Darkness scowled.

"They're all siblings!" She fought back, as it was obvious. "Hurry and murmur the incantation.."

"From this blood, we symbolize the blood in which Drogo chose, the blood of a true leader. From this blood sacrifice, bring forth Drogo's spirit," Darkness repeated.

Suddenly, the light completely disappeared from the forest. All that remained was shadows, and the glow of Silentcry's blood as it bubbled. The cats of Hawkwatch recoiled, leaving the CaveClan cats as they watched in awe.

As the blood calm, a earth-shattering scream came from Duskfall as her eyes glowed an intense and powerful blue. The pain was apparent, as the she cat feebly fell to the ground and was overcome. Tidefur rushed to his sister's side, as her screams reigned on.

"Duskfall!" Tidefur panicked. As these screams filled the air, the dusk patrol of MountainClan, heard, and rushed to the commotion. Crossing all borders, they wasted no time.

"Duskfall," Amberpaw whimpered beside Ravenpaw. "What's going on?"

The young black furred tom kept a calm and collected face. "Drogo is returning."

"Who is Drogo?"

The screams stopped. And Tidefur was pulled back, as Darkness stepped forward. In Hawk's body, he overlooked as Duskfall ceased to be.

"Where am I?" Were the first words of Duskfall. Still the same voice and appearance, nothing seemed different.

"A new world," Darkness replied as Duskfall came to her paws. As the she cat glanced around, and her siblings on looked her with somber glances, it was apparent, Duskfall was gone.

Focusing on Darkness, Duskfall's expression changed to one of familiarly and kindness. "Father.."

"Drogo? Is it really you?" Darkness' expression was priceless as he chuckled and touched noses with his son.

"It's been long, father," Drogo replied before looking at himself.

"How am I.."

"The body in which you have taken, is of a she cat's. But do not worry, the host was chosen for you and shall be completely capable of our future tasks," Darkness replied. As their reunion continued, the Hawkwatch warriors detected the incoming patrol.

"We must leave. I will explain everything, in time, my son..."

Quickly, Hawkwatch left as soon as they had came. Tidefur quickly aided his sister by licking her neck wound, and Amberpaw did the same for Hazelpaw, until the other patrols arrived.

Eagleflight, Rustclaw, Breezetalon, and Hiddenwatcher were all among MountainClan's patrol. Overhearing the screams and howls, they successfully managed to help the cats back before their wounds reached a lethal level.

Returning to camp, Blazingflame immediately spring into action fetching marigold and having Foxkit and Bearkit fetch Ivy leaves and cobwebs to stop the bleeding and apply the ointment. The verdict from the medicine cat, was that they would all survive.

What happened? What happened? What happened. That was the question of the day for CaveClan's dusk patrol. The only answer they supplied was simple. "Darkness returned. Drogo returned. Duskfall is no more."

Joining Amberpaw and Stonepaw, Hazelpaw didn't feel safe anymore. Amberpaw must've known her secret.

"Isn't that weird?"

"That your blood didn't work.."

"Maybe. It was because Cinderstar wasn't as worthy as Coldstar.. I don't know. I'm just glad you're alright," Amberpaw said, grateful for her best friend's safety. Stonepaw looked at the two of them.

"I don't know what I would do without you two," he admitted. From across camp, Stonepaw met his father's glance. *Was he right? Are the clans not safe anymore?*

Thank you! If you're reading this, you're an upstanding citizen and have a chance at winning my eternal love and affection!

Due to prior comments...
Cough. WildUntilTheEnd
Cough. Spokenwrites
Cough. Everybody.

LightClan answered your prayers. No **RIPS**. For now.

Chapter 39

(Please notify me if there are any typos or grammatical errors. I rushed through this. Thank you!)

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue

flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kits: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom), Angelkit (she cat), and Ospreykit (tom)

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Howlingpaw- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) Mentor: Cougarfur

Blossumpaw- a white and gray calico she cat with pale blue eyes. (Lilacfur) Mentor: Winterleaf

Troutpaw- a brown and gray tortoiseshell tom with yellow eyes. (helloimsanta) Mentor: Rockfall

Mistkit- a light gray furred she cat with pale blue eyes. (Snowstarrr) Mentor: Dovepool

Scalykit- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) Mentor: Dragonstone

Kits:
Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 3 moons.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 3 moons.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 2 moons.

Talonkit- a silver Bengal tom with defined black stripes that give him his name. He has light golden eyes. 1 moon.

Ospreykit- a silver tom with pale blue green eyes. 1 moon.

Angelkit- a silver-blue Bengal she cat with pale gray eyes. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Drogo- formerly Duskfall, a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

It had been eight moons since Darkness had left, in search of vengeance against all cats associated with the tom that killed his daughter. Those moons were like an eternity for Sunlight. Every morning she looked out at the courtyard, hoping to see that her mate had returned. The slightest whisper of wind made her turn on her paws, as if it might be Darkness, but it never was.

Luckily, there was much to occupy her time while she waited, much to distract her from the hope disappearing inside of her: Theia's son.

Osiris had come to the palace in Trigon's jaws, small and weak from malnourishment. Theia had only lived long enough to say goodbye to her family, leaving the kit without a mother, but his grandmother and uncle, Trigon, were determined to see him through.

Eight moons later, Trigon was teaching Osiris fighting in the courtyard. It was a pleasant, sunny afternoon. The garden trees were in bloom, and wafting the lovely scent of flowers through the warm air. The two cats were facing off in the direct center of the yard, on top of a mosaic depicting a large, violet flower. Trigon stood on one petal, while Osiris stood on the petal opposite. Both cats regarded each other sharply; both pairs of electric-blue eyes glinted in the sunlight.

Osiris shifted his paws anxiously, and tried to keep his face devoid of emotion, so as not to alert his uncle. It had been a moon since Trigon had announced their practice fights, now they were like real opponents. It might be an hour before it really heated up.

Cautiously, Osiris glided onto the flower petal on his right, shoulders hunched, ready to catch any pounce. Almost lazily, Trigon moved towards the petal on his left. Osiris was tempted to move closer, but knew better than to fall for his uncle's feint. He looked lazy, but Trigon's mind was always working.

"Are we going to fight, or dance?" Osiris joshed as he moved onto the next petal on his right. He was feeling tense, and shouldn't have said anything. Trigon always knew that he was nervous when he started talking smack.

"That's up to you," Trigon answered smoothly, moving once more to the left. His laser-like eyes flickered up towards the balcony overlooking the courtyard. "If you don't want me to beat you in front of Sunlight...,"

Osiris whipped his head around to look: the balcony was empty. The split second that registered, he felt Trigon's lean, powerful body ram his. "Oof!"

Osiris felt his uncle's claws grip the spiked scruff on his back and

drag him to the ground. The tiled flower mosaic came up to meet his face, and he nearly blacked out when his head hit the ground.

"Are you being serious?" Trigon hissed, frustrated. "That was such an obvious ploy! A kit wouldn't have fallen for that!" He was on top of Osiris, his strong paws on his nephew's throat.

"C-Can't... breath... uncle!" Osiris snarled, and using all of the strength in his hind legs, he threw off the larger tom. Trigon landed on his feet, but didn't have time to block Osiris's quick scratch. Black wisps of fur came out in Osiris's claws, but there wasn't a wound on Trigon's maw. Trigon chuckled.

"Are you afraid to hurt me? You know that's not how you win a fight." Trigon sassed.

"You're my uncle," Osiris protested, catching his breath. *Is the fight over?* Trigon wasn't moving. His uncle was standing in the center of the flower, smirking. "I could never hurt you."

Trigon stopped smiling, but only for a moment, yet Osiris couldn't forget the faraway look in his eyes. "That's quite noble of you, Osiris, but during our fights you should forget about that."

"Why?" Osiris demanded, nervous.

Trigon snorted. "Otherwise the next time you fight a cat, you'll misjudge a scratch and leave them unscathed." The older tom turned to look at the balcony. "Oh, now mother's here."

The light from the sun made Sunlight's fur glisten like gold. The she cat hopped down from the balcony with royal grace, and landed with perfect poise. Osiris beamed. "Hello, Sunlight!"

"Hello, Osiris. Trigon. How was your lesson?" Sunlight gave Osiris an affectionate lick between the eyes and looked at her son. Trigon gave a lean-shouldered shrug.

"He's getting better. By the time he's thirty moons, he should be able to beat a shrew."

"No!" Osiris protested, giving his uncle a playful shove. "I'm better

than that, Sunlight! I almost beat Drogo last week, ya know! He said that I was warrior material.."

"Osiris, we do not follow that path. We are guardians, not warriors," Trigon brought up, motioning to the large statues of ancient felines, that protected the twolegs.

"I can be both! I'll be a guardian and a warrior sooner than any other tom!"

Sunlight sighed. Her eyes flickered up to the sky. "Oh my ancestors, protect this young tom from his pride."

"May our ancestors save you," Trigon said seriously, then flicked Osiris in the face with his tail. While his nephew sneezed, Trigon addressed Sunlight. "Speaking of ancestors, where is my brother? I haven't seen him since moonrise. Is he.." He didn't finish. He didn't have to.

Osiris could finish it mentally, as well as Sunlight. *He must be angry. He might be killing the local rats.*

"Why is Uncle Drogo always gone?" Osiris had to ask. He loved his kin, and Drogo had lent a huge paw in his training, almost as much as Trigon had. But in the recent moons Drogo had been disappearing, sometimes with scratches and wounds, covered in dirt to hide the scent of where he'd been.

Sunlight looked worried. "Don't worry, Osiris, I'm sure he's just... looking for some alone time."

Trigon gave his mother a sharp look, but didn't comment. Osiris kept his mouth shut, but made a plan to ask his uncle what was on his mind. He respected Trigon. His uncle was responsible, respectful, and always willing to make time for Osiris or any other cat in the palace. Seeing him worry... it made Osiris worry.

"Let me know if you see Drogo, then," Sunlight purred anxiously, and ran towards the gardens. She was probably checking for any new cat scents, Osiris thought.

Trigon sat back on his haunches and gave a deep sigh. "Osiris, I

want to tell you something."

"TRIGON." A familiar voice snarled loudly, coming from the courtyard entrance. Osiris whirled around, as did Trigon, who flattened his ears. His face was fearful.

"Drogo?" Trigon gasped. Osiris's eyes went wide. Drogo stood at the entrance, his large, golden frame bristling. "Drogo, what's the matter?"

"Trigon. I need to speak with you, immediately."

"What is this about?"

Drogo's eyes narrowed. His tail whipped the air in a frenzy. "Darkness was right. You're still with Sunlight, after all of this time."

Osiris had never seen Drogo so angry, or Trigon so afraid. "Drogo.."

Drogo ignored him. He was focused on Trigon. "Our mother is a fool, yet you protect her. Don't you see? She's filling your head with lies!"

"The only cat who's head is full of dung is yours, Drogo," Trigon hissed, his voice shaking. "Why is father angry? Where is he? Why are you both angry at mother?"

Trigon turned to Osiris. "Get out of here, Osiris. Go fetch Sunlight. It's been too long, kin need to solve things as kin."

"Why?" Drogo growled.

Trigon's eyes hardened. He grabbed Osiris's scruff with his teeth and shoved him towards the balcony. "GO! NOW! DON'T YOU DARE STOP!" While Osiris bolted, Trigon watched his brother. "Do you want to fight me, Drogo? Is that what you want!"

For a moment, Drogo's anger fluctuated, and he looked uncertain. "I want you to see the sensible solution. We are no longer guardians. We are Warriors and we need to fight for each other. Together, with father and I, we can rule the new world together."

Trigon cocked his head to the side. "And what of mother?"

"Father will take care of her."

Trigon growled at the lie, his silky, black fur stood straight up, and he fixed his brother with a cold stare. "I will not allow you to kill her, Drogo. Get out right now, or I will kill you."

"You can't kill me," Drogo said, as he stepped into a defensive position, his paws digging into the loose staccato tiles. "I'm stronger. I'm going to kill you, then take Osiris to Darkness."

"I guess we have come to a disagreement, then," Trigon said coolly, his paws shaking as he stepped into the center of the flower. "Let's do this, then."

Drogo frowned. "Death is the lot you have chosen, then?"

"It is," Trigon growled.

"You're afraid, brother." Drogo noted. "But you're brave. Father didn't want this to happen."

Trigon glared. "A-Are we going to FIGHT or DANCE, Drogo? I'M RIGHT HERE."

Drogo darted forward, insanely fast for his size. At the perimeter of the flower, Trigon lashed out at him, pushing him back. Drogo lunged again, but again Trigon's lightning-quick slashed held him at bay. Not one hit landed. When Drogo charged at him, Trigon jumped, and landed on Drogo's back. The smaller cat clawed into Drogo's golden fur until he felt hot, wet blood and pieces of meaty skin in his claws. Drogo howled in pain, and threw Trigon off with difficulty. He flew through the air, but managed to land on his feet. Drogo's back was gushing red, and matted. Gore still stuck to Trigon's paws as he slashed viciously at Drogo's open face.

Yet again, he missed, and Drogo reared out of the way, smashing Trigon in the face with a giant paw. Trigon's nose crunched painfully, but he didn't react. He whirled away in a flash of black fur, blood flowing from his broken nose. The white-hot pain spread in a harsh line from the tip of his ruined nostrils to the space

between his eyes. The pain spread over the criss-crossed scars around his eyes.

"Ack!" Trigon coughed. Blood dribbled like syrup onto the violet tiles. Drogo was howling at his wound from a few yards away. "Had enough, brother?"

Drogo charged again, shoulders lowered, head down, like one of the horned beasts that they loaded off of the ships at port. His eyes were murderous.

A few inches before Drogo would have ran Trigon into the ground, Trigon moved out of the way, and sent his claws raking downward. He made contact with Drogo's hind leg, but all that ripped free was golden whisps of fur.

"TRIGON, DROGO, STOP!" Sunlight's scream broke Trigon's concentration. His mother was standing on the edge of the yard, with Osiris at her side. "STOP!"

Suddenly Drogo was turning around for another charge, and this time Trigon wasn't prepared. Drogo slammed into Trigon's thin, black shoulder with all of his weight and strength behind the blow. Bones shattered, and Trigon spun into the ground. His vision exploded into fractals of red, black and blue. There was too much pain to deal with. All Trigon could register past his blindness was the sound of his mother's previous screams. *Stop, stop, stop*. Yet Trigon wasn't sure if he could hear. There was just numbness, and that one memory.

Osiris watched in horror as Trigon hit the ground. Blood was everywhere, running from his uncle's nose, mouth, ears, and his right shoulder was just a broken crater of destroyed meat, black fur, and severed bone. Bile rose in the back of Osiris's throat, and he closed his eyes.

"NO!" Sunlight screamed, and ran towards Trigon's limp form. Her youngest son barely stirred. The only movements were the twitching of his destroyed limb and shoulder, and the flickering of his scratched eyes. He was whimpering. "Trigon, no. Please please PLEASE." Eyes brimming with tears, she looked up at Drogo, and

only found more pain. Her massive and strong son had a chunk of his back missing, scratches down his sides, with strips of skin hanging from his ribs like ribbons. He stood over them, chest rising and falling rapidly, his eyes glazed and full of pain.

"Why were you fighting? Why?" Sunlight wailed. "Darling, your back..."

Drogo didn't react. He just stood there.

Sunlight tried licking the blood off of Trigon's face. "Don't be afraid. You're safe now. Please, wake up, I need you! Please!"

Then, Drogo shuddered. "He was afraid, but he fought me anyway. Mother, he tried to stop me from.."

Sunlight stared, tears leaking from both eyes. "Drogo, why?"

Drogo's eye twitched, and then, legs shaking, he crumpled to the ground. Nearly falling on top of Sunlight, he fell beside his brother, nose brushing nose. "I can't feel my legs," he whimpered.

Sunlight saw the damage. When Trigon had ripped the chunk out of his back, he'd also severed a vertebrae in Drogo's spine.

"Calm down," she purred, shaking with so many emotions at once. "You're hurt very badly. Please, just tell me why you did this."

Drogo looked up at her. "Father told me to." And then the light in his eyes went out, and Drogo died.

Sunlight took a deep breath. "Osiris, come here."

"I-I c-can't.."

"I said COME HERE. Please, Trigon is still alive. I don't know for how long. You need to say goodbye."

Osiris broke down. "I don't understand! Why would he do this!"

"We'll find answers later. Now, you need to speak to Trigon."

Finally, Osiris tiptoed forward, as gently as he could so as not to disturb the loose tiles where Trigon was lying. He avoided Drogo's dead, blue, staring eyes and tried to look at Trigon. "Uncle...," He burst into tears. "Uncle, I love you." He took a deep, shuddery breath. "I've never seen you fight like that." He looked at Sunlight, "I have to go."

Sunlight nodded, and watched with a broken heart as Osiris turned away. As she felt him leave the courtyard, Trigon breathed his last breaths. Sunlight didn't see it. She was watching the path to the lighthouse. She couldn't see the actual structure itself, but the royal path's archway was in plain view.

Under the arch, Darkness stood like a shadow against the blue sky. They stood, watching each other, until finally Darkness turned away and disappeared.

It was a pleasant, sunny afternoon. The wind was blowing. Sunlight breathed in the flowery, spring air, and got to her feet. She gave her sons a last loving glance before turning and walking after Darkness. He would pay for what he'd done. She felt a deep fury like nothing she'd ever experienced. It penetrated her soul, and burned at her. The only thing that would quench it, she knew, was vengeance.

The feeling of vengeance and fury stung the young tom, as he awoke. Dragonstone lay awake in his nest, after the haunting vision he had received.

Receiving them for moons now, he did not know what them meant, only that he was not good.

"Dragonstone, are you alright?" Mistyshine asked, as she felt him wake beside her. He closed his eyes, and shuddered.

"Nothing," he lied.

"Just a dream?"

"Just a dream," he affirmed.

"I hope you'll be alright. We better get back, the kits will be worried," she smiled, giving him an affectionate lick.

A tree length or so away, Darkness and Drogo watched the Dragonstone and Mistyshine return to camp. Drogo was more alert and focused than Darkness had ever witnessed him. His narrowed eyes followed the cats until they disappeared into foliage.

"Should we go after them father?"

"No.. Tonight we will attack LakeClan..."

"I'm afraid that will have to wait father," Drogo replied calmly. Darkness frowned, turning to face his son.

"What do you mean?"

"LakeClan outnumbers the Hawkwwatch. There is no way secure the cats and perform the ritual without fatalities on all platforms. We cannot slaughter the clan because it will enrage the other clans," he went on and on until Darkness stopped him with the flick of his tail.

"What do you suppose we do?"

"Send another message. Cats are frightened for their lives. Duskfall attended the gathering and through her, I know that Shadow is collecting cats to leave the clans with him. *Forever*. If we crush RogueClan and Shadow, the martyrdom will send the largest message. LakeClan will collapse, and we will walk in, perform the ritual and leave," Drogo proposed. Turning from tense, Darkness began to chuckle until he purred with approval.

"I am proud of you, Drogo. I can't wait to reunite our family."

Miss CeRosette wrote the entirety of the flashback and we thank her with most adoring love.

Thank you to all you read today's installment! I love you. I love your comment. Some of your profile pictures make you look like meth dealers and 6 year olds, but I'm sure your real faces nicer.

Chapter 40

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

RogueClan-
Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Maple- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Bone- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. (AmyXBrookes)

Smokey- a golden thick furred tom with a long fluffy tail. He has gray eyes. (caliswaglife)

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Twilight- a short black furred she cat with purple eyes. (D1am0ndgirl)

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. (cocowolf12) 6

moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 6 moons.

Underwood- a black furred tom with spots and speckles that run along his belly. He has brown eyes. 5 moons.

Natasha- a calico furred she cat with ginger and black patches. She has Amber eyes. 5 moons.

Sherlock- a brown furred tom with yellow eyes. 4 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 5 moons.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Drogo- formerly Duskfall, a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

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Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

"Warn them. Tell the Clans of what occurred," Cinderstar ordered. His gaze was held on the stone floor he was hunched over in pain. The leader's gray fur hadn't been groomed since he attack, and hurt his appearance. His eyes frantically switched focus, in a surreal panic.

"What shall I tell them?" Cloudflight asked.

"Tell them... Darkness came and left with Drogo. Duskfall was the only loss," Cinderstar replied. The attack on his clan, although all survived, it struck fear into hearts and sent the leader into seclusion.

"Yes, sir. I'll be back as soon as possible," Cloudflight said. Soon, the light furred tom took off, leaving the camp and heading for the next. Cinderstar lifted his gaze to watch the tom go, but was met another face.

"Hazelpaw would like to speak with you," Fairshade explained quietly. Cinderstar shuddered, them nodded. The deputy permitted the she cat to enter before leaving their presence.

The two cats observed each other for sometime, until Cinderstar turned away. He was entirely ashamed of what had occurred. Because of him, and his lie, Hazelpaw could've been killed. Before the leader could say anything, Hazelpaw stepped forward.

"It's not your fault. This could've happened to any clan," she replied trying to reassure him. The clan needed a strong leader, more than ever.

"But it happened to ours. You could have died," he exasperated.

"I didn't," she stated. His blue eyes met hers, with an indignation.

"I couldn't live with myself if anything happened to you. You're all the kin I have left," he whispered. Hazelpaw nodded and rested her head on his shoulder. Blood or not. Cinderstar was her father.

As the two solved their past afflictions, Cloudflight travelled onward toward RogueClan. The most outer source, the young tom decided it was crucial to notify the rogues before it was too late.

Through the thick forest foliage of MountainClan, he leaped and traversed over the land. Birds and prey retreated before he grew close, for the racket alone sent them away. The soft pounding of his paws was no too alarming. Any twoleg would not noticed or recognize the sound, but for the keen senses of the forest critters, the cat was quite dexter table.

His father, Wiltear, had called it hasty and dangerous to depart in the thick of the night. Cloudlfight ignored his worries. The fate of the Clans and he safety of toms, she cats and kits was more important than his.

Once he had overcome the vast territory of MountainClan, he neared the twolegplace. The mingled scents of dog, cat and twoleg alike were enough to notify anyone of the place. However, the bright glow of lights projecting from the lampposts and twoleg dens, demanded one's attention.

Once his stepped onto the park, a strange howl was headed in the distance. Suddenly, he took off, certain of what he was hearing. Further ahead, the commotion was already starting.

"Hawkwatch!" Twilight screamed as she sprinted back to home. The young she cat was hunting when she saw the cats approaching. Now, a young black furred tom was on her tail and gaining.

Catching sight of the metal fence, she put in all of her energy to make it through the small hole below the fence. As she slid under the fence, the young tom behind her bit down on her hind leg. Digging her claws into the dirt across the fence, Twilight tried to hold to the ground.

"Twilight!" Luna screamed, taking off toward her sister. Her sister grabbed her by the scruff and pulled her, to her, as Ravenpaw pulled the other way.

"Luna!" Twilight screamed in pain as Ravenpaw bit down harder. The searing pain was unavoidable, and there was no chance Twilight could shake the tom. With a defiant tug, Ravenpaw took the upper hand and dragged the young she cat into the clutches of the enemy.

"Twilight!" Luna screamed as her sister was dragged toward them and Crismonclaw, took the young she cat in her claws. Luna, horrified, couldn't slip under the tiny hole of the fence. All she could do was watch as Crimsonclaw teared her sister apart.

"Finish her, Ravenpaw," the white she cat whispered. Ravenpaw nodded and snuck his claws into the little she cat's throat, and it was over quickly.

Crimsonclaw then turned to Luna and smirked at her through the fence. She taunted her maliciously, "Come and get me!"

Luna was thrown into rage at this, but Smokey wouldn't allow it. "Come on!"

The two took off into the shed where the others resided. Frantic and worried, the RogueClan cats did all that they could, searching for an escape.

"Llewyn!" Bone called out urgently, as the Hawkwatch found the secondary entrance through the fence. Llewyn cursed and took off toward the fence.

"Lostpath! Shadow!" He screamed. Instead of their usual compliance and rush to battle, the toms did not appear. Maple and Bone were forced to fight the front lines, and were overcome quickly.

Vicefang noticed his brother, Bone, and marveled at the sight. He felt an excitement tingle through his legs and down to his toes. *This is it!*

Eyes ablaze and claws unsheathed, Vicefang barreled toward his

brother. His pounced on the white furred tom, taking a chunk of fur in his mouth, he ripped it off. Bone screamed in pain as Vinefang continued to shred him, taking his claws along his brother skin.

"You're done," he brother spat and he smashed his face into the ground. "I am proud you survived longer than the next guy!"

I'm his last moments, Bone glanced over at Maple, bloody and gone from the world. Lapping and playing in his pools of blood, was Hollyfang.

What has this world become? Bone thought before he left it himself.

In the midst of the battle, Luna managed to bring three of the kits to back exit. She watched carefully as Dany, Cog and Owlkit slipped through and evaded the eyes of the enemy. The she cat attempted to take the other kits, but it was too late.

Flooding into their home, the Hawkwatch planned on taking no survivors. Irisstep entered and took Lynch, head on. The pale tom, although fast, was not fast enough to stop Irisstep.

Irisstep did what he had to, but not what he desired. Pouncing onto Lynch's back, he dug his claws in and savagely bit his neck. The two fighting toms rolled to the ground and Lynch, wiggled out of the bite and drug his claws down his belly. Irisstep did the same and they continued following and clawing at each other until another force intervened.

Tempestshadow shot toward them and nipped at Lynch's unprotected flank. The RogueClan tom whipped around and Irisstep did the same to his other flank, except biting down. Tempestshadow did the same, and the fight was over. No medicine cat could sustain two deep bites.

Lynch hadn't died yet, but had ceased fighting for the moment. The pain was excruciating, blurring his sight. He moaned in pain, trying to made each breath count. He coached himself silently. *Keep breathing.*

"Darkness!" Drogo called out. Under his paws was the lean black

furred tom that was Llewyn. Pinning him to the ground, there was no escape for he tom.

Finally, the leader of the Hawkwatch entered. Traipsing over the bodies of Lynch, Maple and Bone, he moved toward Drogo. His blue eyes locked on the leader of RogueClan, and he smirked.

"Father, this is the tom?"

"Indeed," Darkness whispered beside him. "He bears stunning resemblance to Trigon..."

"No! No.. I am not," Llewyn denied. Darkness narrowed his eyes and prodded the tom with his paw.

"Who said you could speak?" Darkness challenged. Llewyn became silent afterward, as well as the rest of RogueClan and the Hawkwatch.

"Now. Sagesmoke, bring forward two tom kits," Darkness ordered. Sagesmoke bowed her head with a somber expression before looking to the kits in the corner.

Nestled in their nests and afraid of the battle, the kits uttered no cry. Sherlock, Underwood and Natasha sat quietly with their eyes wide with fear. Sagesmoke chose Sherlock, picking him up by the scruff, and he just happened to be the youngest. But, Natasha wasn't in the mood to cooperate.

"Let him go!" She screamed, struggling with Sagesmoke. The kit but the she cat in the hind leg, and didn't let go. Dropping Sherlock, Sagesmoke grunted and tried to remove the kit.

Vicefang crossed the shed, then took Natasha by the scruff and cast her away. Batting her with his paw, the she cat's neck was snapped. A sharp yelp sounded from the kit, until she dropped to the ground, her body unmoving.

"Vicefang!" Darkness scowled. "Was that necessary?"

"I hate kits," he retorted before stalking off and out of the shed. Darkness scoffed and together Sagesmoke and him brought Sherlock

and Underwood forward. The two kits were silent, and uttered no cry. The only cry for help came from their wide eyes of fear.

"No! Don't kill them," Llewyn pleaded painfully. Darkness ignored the tom, and signaled for the next step.

Almost as tradition, Crimsonclaw stepped forward toward the kit. Taking Sherlock first, she shoved the kit to the ground with her paw alone. Then she dragged her claws down its neck. Following this, she did the same with Underwood.

"With this blood, we symbolize the descendants of my daughter, and the closet living descendant is represented in the flesh," Darkness proclaimed, his glance shifting to Llewyn. "Accept this sacrifice for your ritual, and summon the spirit of my second child!"

As soon as his words were finished, Llewyn's scream filled the air his he writhed in pain. Similar to Duskfall's change, the screams were earth shattering and his eyes lit a powerful blue cue. Unlike Duskfall, the transformation lasted only a few seconds before it stopped and the blue glow faded.

Rising from bloody ground, Llewyn gazed around before looking at the others. He asked no question, but looked at the bodies of Hawk and Duskfall and frowned, before she looked into their eyes.

"D..D-ro.. Drogo?"

"I am."

"And father?"

"Yes, my darling. Theia, we have summoned you for great things.."

"Where's..." Now, Theia began before catching sight of the dead kits. She gasped and panicked. "No... No!"

"Theia, calm down."

"Blood rituals.. No, father.. How could you! Why would you stoop this low!" She screamed, furious.

"Let us explain," Darkness pleaded. Instead, Drogo wouldn't although it. He tackled Theia and batted her in the head, pinning her down.

"We will not explain ourselves. You will follow us, or die," Drogo threatened, holding his stance over her.

Darkness narrowed his eyes. He was disappointed in the result, for he hoped for a better reunion. He settled for what they received and looked out to the rest of the Hawkwatch.

"We're leaving," he announced. Drogo kept a sharp eye on Llewyn, now Theia, as Hawkwatch left. Taking only Theia as a prisoner, they left many wounded and held no remorse for what occurred.

Sure when they were far away, Luna slipped back in the shed, without the kits. Searching frantically for life, she found Lynch on his last breath.

"Lynch! I'm sorry.. They left.. With Llewyn," she cried, beside the tom. He closed his eyes painfully before looking at the she cat.

"Go."

"But, what about RogueClan?"

"There is no more RogueClan," he replied painfully. Betrayed and abandoned, were the dead bodies. All Luna could do, were comfort the surviving as they died.

After Lynch passed, she continued searching them for life, and found Smokey. The golden furred tom had a wild smirk, but Luna did not understand why. His entrails had been pulled from his belly and he had been left there to die.

"Smokey.."

"I always hoped this would happen," he admitted. Coughing, his eyes grew droopy.

"That you would die?"

"No. That, the last cat I saw, would be you," he said. Smokey's eyes, full of fondness then became still and the ton was no longer alive.

"I am sorry," Luna cried as she glanced at each body. Among them, she valued his heart, she remembered the times they spent and the memories shared.

There was no pain stronger, than burying her kin and friends. But there was a pain more indignant, that rose from her toes. Shadow, Ink and Lostpath were not among the dead or injured. They were not among RogueClan, at all.

"Oh LightClan," Cloudflight murmured as he walked onto the scene. Luna watched the tom came and immediately, was on edge.

"What do you want!"

"I'm from CaveClan. I was on my way to warn RogueClan.. I'm sorry. I was too late," he said with a somber expression. Luna nodded before turning away.

"You couldn't have stopped it. No one can stop this."

R.I.P. MAPLE
Neglecting father, yet wild spirit. You followed your heart to RogueClan. May you rest in LightClan.

Common_Conspiracy Thank you for your many contributions to this series.

R.I.P. BONE
Son of Spiderstar, you differed from the status que, and proved to be great addition to RogueClan. Although you fought valiantly, you were struck down savagely. We shall remember you fondly. May you rest in LightClan.
@AmyXBrookes

R.I.P. TWILIGHT
Young and cheerful, your death was terribly unfortunate. With so much potential, your loss will be hard to overcome. May you rest in

LightClan.
D1am0ndgirl

R.I.P. LYNCH
One of the first runners, and mentor to Airflight, you valued the first days of the clans. But as time went on, you saw a truth, and we value setting your heart to something so bold.
May LightClan welcome you with open paws.

R.I.P. UNDERWOOD

R.I.P. SHERWOOD

R.I.P. NATASHA

R.I.P. SMOKEY
You charming golden furred tom you. Creating your charisma was fun, but now it is your time.
May LightClan have lots of beautiful she cat's for you to prance around with.
@caliswaglife

Thanks for sticking with me guys.

Chapter 41

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Wildfire- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Russetcarve- a dark red furred tabby tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites)

Batfur- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette)

Apprentices:
Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonbliss

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

Wispkit- a dark blue furred she cat with light gray eyes.

Juniperkit- a dark gray furred tom.

Parsleykit- a fluffy gray furred she cat.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy

powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kit: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom), Angelkit (she cat), and Ospreykit (tom)

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Howlingpaw- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) Mentor: Cougarfur

Scalypaw- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) Mentor: Dragonstone

Kits:
Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 3 moons.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 3 moons.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 2 moons.

Talonkit- a silver Bengal tom with defined black stripes that give him his name. He has light golden eyes. 1 moon.

Ospreykit- a silver tom with pale blue green eyes. 1 moon.

Angelkit- a silver-blue Bengal she cat with pale gray eyes. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

RogueClan-
Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. (cocowolf12) 6 moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 6 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 5 moons.

Breathing lightly, Blackice trotted back to camp, followed by Steelstrike, Sprucestrike, Swifthawk, Hailstorm and lead by Sleetstar. Out hunting, the four cats were taken from their worries in camp. By hunting in a group, the patrol was able to bring two rabbits, and a hawk back to camp.

Sleetstar, Blackice and Swifthawk would corner and manipulate the path of the prey, while Sprucestrike and Halistorm would ambush the prey and take it by force. The strategy and accumulated techniques of StoneClan worked well, and they hoped to continue advancing them in the future.

With pride, Sleetstar watched her two sons stride a few paces ahead. Her handsome sons were in their prime, and reminded her more of their father, Fierceclaw, each day. With the pain of loss, came more than Fierceclaw, but Nightjet, and Vulturestar. Her friends, her allies and her love, had ceased to exist. With each new day, came the struggle to preserve what she had accomplished for her clan and Kim.

Looking past the lost forest and up the mountain, toward the horizon, she watched intently and waited. Suddenly, a shudder ran down her back. A gleam in the trees far ahead, and a stoic shape was there. *No...* For a moment, she felt his eyes staring back at her. Then, he disappeared. She imagined her friend and companion at the edge of the trees. But it was only in her mind.

"Sleetstar," Sprucestrike said as he approached the she cat. The broad structured tom, glanced across the moors, following her glance.

"I'm sorry. I was just," Sleetstar apologized before she cut herself off.

"I know," he replied quietly. The two StoneClan Warriors, looked out into the distance together. "I am not sure if he'll ever return."

"He will," Sleetstar reprimanded. *He must have faith. They all must, if LightClan is to bring him back.*

"We will wait. As long as you wait, so shall I," Sprucestrike promised. His leader nodded, with a small smile. Together, the two followed the younger toms to camp.

Meanwhile, Steelstrike followed from the rear. His head was lowered, gazing at each mark in the ground he passed. Each footstep, each pebble or shard out of place and each pawstep, did not distract his thoughts.

He yearned for peace. Steelstrike yearned for resolve. But his kin were broken, and his claws were stained. Stained by guilt. Stained with his past sins against his kin.

Avoiding all conversation was the only way he could cope. The only way the young tom could manage to go on. Snakefoot yearned attempted to have many discussions with his siblings, but was troubled by duties, and it was put on many times over.

Their sister, Bluefinch, shared no words. Moonpelt's death was devastating, as the last things said to their brother were not pleasant. Division and unrest haunted the surviving kin.

Even with Blackice, Steelstrike could not bring the words to make her understand. Neither of them could. Too afraid of sharing their pain, that walked flank to flank, never sharing a word.

No words needed to be said.

Entering camp, the patrol broke apart to continue desperate duties. Hailstorm and Swifthawk enjoyed flirting with the Hollowflame, after they placed their rabbits in the pile. Blackice dragged the Hawk to the pile, before leaving the camp once again, to visit her Sharpwing's place in the earth.

Sprucestrike noticed Ivysong, returning from Snakefoot's den, and the couple embraced, touching noses. Muzzle to muzzle, Ivysong was alive with joy, eager to share the news with her beloved mate.

"Sprucestrike. I must tell you something," Ivysong said.

"We are having another litter?"

"Who told you?" She chuckled as they resided near the stone walls of camp. He smirked wildly before continuing.

"Vinepaw explained your suspicions. I am just happy our hopes our coming true," he replied, licking her on the cheek. She sighed.

"I admit. I am going to miss getting out of camp.."

"Of course! My she cats can't be cooped up inside a nursery," he chuckled, playfully. She returned the chuckle.

"But we've wanted another litter. I will manage this before I grow old.."

"You will. I love you, Ivysong. I regret many things, but I will never regret the choices that led me to you," he whispered. The mates laid down, and shared their prey, content.

Other patrols and clan members were returning to camp, including Airflight, and Kindlepaw. Behind them came Vinepaw and Fernpaw, tails intwined. The two she cats had spent more and more time together, ever since Vinepaw had helped the she cat rehabilitate after the flood and the tragic loss of her brother. For the longest time, Vinepaw wasn't sure of her path, her destiny, until she fell in love with Fernpaw. Although both were sure of themselves, they would never open up about their commitment, for the sake of StoneClan.

"How did I do today?" Vinepaw asked.

"Good! You have the best technique in battle.."

"Really? Airflight keeps telling me I need to observe more. Observe body position, scent, prior moves.."

"He only corrects you so much because you have potential," Fernpaw said.

"You're right! Besides, everyone knows Earthfoot is the best fighter in the clan," Vinepaw reassured herself. As they entered the

apprentice den, a new thought came to Vinepaw. "Are you excited?"

"What?"

"For your warrior ceremony? At the end of the moon, or is it next moon?"

"Not really."

"Why not!"

"Because I'll have to leave you in the apprentice's den," she whispered before licking her on the cheek. Vinepaw grinned but pulled back.

"Wanna share a rabbit?"

Later in the day, as a few clan members enjoyed their afternoon naps. The larger patrol caught rogue scents, near the lost forest.

Among the patrol, was Brightfire, lagging in the back. The golden she cat was very preoccupied, thinking of her handsome MountainClan warrior. *Eagleflight*, she sighed.

"Brightfire, come on," Moltenstream encouraged as Deathclaw and Dustystripe raced ahead. Brightfire frowned, feeling completely exasperated.

"There's always a problem here.. Do you think MountainClan deals with as much as we do?"

"What! Brightfire this is pretty serious," Moltenstream argued, trying to catch up with the others. Blocking her, Brightfire cut her off.

"I know! But.." Brightfire crooned. After a long pause, it finally clicked with Moltenstream.

"Oh fox dung.. You're in love.. Come on already!" Moltenstream finally said.

Ahead of the she cats, Deathclaw and Dustystripe had already

engaged the figures, but not with claws. At the edge of the trees stood, Shadow and Lostpath with cold glares across their faces.

"What is your business? You cannot run onto Clan territory whenever you want," Dustystripe scowled. Lostpath scoffed before looking at Shadow.

"Let's hurry up."

"We need to speak to StoneClan, in its entirety."

"Who gives you the authority?"

"I do," Shadow snapped. Glancing at the patrol. "Take us. Or we will take ourselves."

The two toms glanced at each other, with scowls. The rogues were disgusting, but Sleetstar's opinion was more important than theirs in the end.
By evening, the patrol had taken the two toms to the camp.

By chance, the many cats of StoneClan were all present and accounted for. Sleetstar was already waiting, has Moltenstream had ran ahead to notify the clan of their visit.

"Good evening Sleetstar."

"You mustn't come on such short notice. Threatening my warriors is not recommended," she replied.

"Of course. But it is urgent."

"Go ahead, you have the ground."

"Lostpath, Ink, and I are RogueClan Warriors, as you know. As I predicted it at the last gathering, our fears have come true. The Hawkwatch has attacked RogueClan and killed all of its warriors. We are the only survivors besides three kits, and a kitty pet."

"I'm sorry for your loss," Sleetstar said in shock. The loss of RogueClan was tragic, as many peaceful cats took refuge in the group of rogues. "If all were killed, how did you three escape? And

where is Ink?"

"We were hunting. We came back to the ruins," Lostpath replied. After a brief moment of silence, the clan seemed to believe the alibi. *Clan cats will not welcome survivors...* Lostpath had told Shadow. *You mean traitors,* Shadow had said at the time. Now the tom understood, that their pelts could not be saved on the truth.

"Sleetstar, I'm afraid you've misunderstood. Ink came earlier today, but to tell you, we were coming," Shadow informed her. Sleetstar shook her head and the patrols from earlier today were confused.

"I'm afraid not. She never came."

"What do you mean? Where else would she go?"

"Shadow, is she from LakeClan?"

"Yes, but what does that.."

"I do not believe RogueClan was noticed of what occurred at CaveClan," Sleetstar said, a storm of worry coming over her. "Shadow, they took a she cat and she turned into a cat she was not."

"If it is true," Twistedfoot began. "That RogueClan was attacked. It's only a matter of time before they attack somewhere else."

"Are you mouse-brained? They are too small to attack here.. Or MountainClan.."

"But LakeClan."

"They can defend themselves!" A clan member exclaimed.

"We must send runners at once. The clans do not know of the destruction of RogueClan and the three at the Hawkwatch poses," Sleetstar decided. "Airflight, please run to MountainClan. Tell them everything we know."

"Send me!" Blackice shouted from the side of camp. Sleetstar noticed her plea but ignored it with a flick of the tail.

"Shadow and Lostpath. Go to LakeClan at once. We'll follow." Listening to the leader, Shadow and Lostpath took off toward LakeClan.

Next, in the commotion, Sleetstar looked to Sprucestrike. "Sprucestrike, Moonbliss and Bluefinch, head off to LakeClan now! I want Earthfoot, Poisonberry Dawnclous and Steelstrike to surround camp and keep watch for the night. If anything stirs, I need to know."

Blackice knew Sleetstar would confine her to camp, so she left before the patrol could. Taking off, no one could catch up with her in time. She could feel the Hawkwatch's presence as they moved to LakeClan.

She could not avoid the calls any longer. Darkness, Drogo and Theia were screaming to her in her dreams. Sunlight was restless, and Blackice was defiant. Her brother. Her friend. Her mother's clan would not be slaughtered.

Squirming under her brother's claws, Flickerpaw tried to regain her footing. The mud beneath her was slippery, wet and disgusting. Mud caked to her face as her brother pushed her further into the puddle.

Scalypaw chuckled at the sight. Training in the mud, was the highlight of the day, as Dragonstone had introduced the apprentices to it. Even after he had returned to camp, the apprentices stayed near camp, practicing.

"Get a foothold!"

"I'm trying," Flickerpaw managed to say before mud started to get in her mouth. She spat, and writhed before managing to buck him off to the side.

"Hah!" Flickerpaw exclaimed as she got to her paws. As she looked down to inspect the mud on her pelt, her friends went silent.

"Guys.. What is it.."

Following their eyes, she turned around to meet their blank

expressions. A few tail lengths behind her, was a familiar black furred tom. His yellow eyes were set on Flickerpaw, as he sat complacent and still.

"Is that.."

"Llewyn?" Before the tom could answer, the wind picked up, causing the cat to snap out of it. Suddenly, he faced they with alarm.

"Run. Quickly. To StoneClan."

The warning frightened the three so much, that they listened to the tom. Taking off for the border, they stayed within sight of camp, by hiding in the reeds. Theia, sat still, wondering when her father would attack. Hoping, the cats would survive. Hoping, he would spare the kits.

Around the same time Theia stepped onto LakeClan territory, Ink had reached LakeClan camp. Naturally her un-arranged visit, caused confusion and worry among the clan members. As she began to speak, she only added to the fire.

"Badgerclaw!" She called out, before meeting her father. The tom was delighted to see his daughter, until her gaze turned.

"You have to go! Take Moondust! Take LakeClan!"

"What do you mean?" Lightsplash asked from a tail-length or two away. The she cat and many others had overheard the conversation.

"RogueClan is gone. Hawkwatch attacked! You have to come with me, LakeClan's existence depends on it!"

"What!"

"No! They can't come here.."

"What did we do to them!"

"Get out!"

"Stop the mousebrain discussion!"

The LakeClan cats kept spewing words over each other until the Clan went mad. Badgerclaw, shook his head, as Moondust sprung into action. The she cat called for Howlingpaw, amongst the camp, and the two went for Badgerclaw.

"Badgerclaw, come with us," Moondust demanded quietly as they made it for the exit. The tom stood his ground, not prepared to leave his clan.

"Badgerclaw!" She yelled. He stood stoic and unresponsive. Moondust frowned, feeling as if she was betrayed. Her mate had made his choice.

Moondust and Howlingpaw left.

"Ottertail, where's Leopardstar?" Lightsplash called out, frantically. Trying to calm the clan down, Lightsplash glanced around. Mistyshine and Dragonstone stood by the nursery, confused.

"What's happening?" Dragonstone called out, racing to Lightsplash's side.

"Ink," she replied with narrowed eyes. The realization struck Dragonstone, and he looked to Lightsplash.

"Stay with Mistyshine please, I have to find Leopardstar!"

"What about Scalypaw? She hasn't returned to camp," Lightsplash said. Dragonstone cursed under his breath. His apprentice and the others had been left out of camp, and could be in danger.

"I'll go find them!" He changed his mind, taking off. Lightsplash shut her eyes in worry, before taking off to Mistyshine's side.

Meanwhile, Ink's words reached more LakeClan Warriors. Burrclaw had little remorse for what could happen to the clan, and took off. Silverfeather, leaving in the fear of losing her sons, attempted to take Cragkit and Coalkit with her. As they were about to leave camp, Drizzlecloud spoke out.

"Silverfeather.."

"No!" She screamed, whipping around. "I decide what is best for them. I always have!"

"They are my sons. I will protect them."

This revelation reached the two kits, and shock followed. Cragkit shuddered and stood behind his mother, in fear of the tom. However, Coalkit looked up to the tom's eyes, looking back at his.

"Coalkit.."

"Go away mom," he replied before racing back into camp. Drizzlecloud hung his head low as Silverfeather was faced with no choice, but to leave with Cragkit. Drizzlecloud would fight her.

Ink tried to settle the commotion but it was too late. Dovepool and Ottertail had raced off to find Leopardstar and Rockfall, who were hunting. Duckpaw had raced out of camp with the others, and Rainpool and Hiddencreek were on the southern border, patrolling far from camp.

"How did this happen?" A voice echoed from behind the willow. As on cue, Darkness stepped over roots, and in the center of camp. Ink, so keen on saving LakeClan, could not even save herself.

The Hawkwatch surround the survivors and dens, while Darkness and Drogo took their places. Crimsonclaw took Ink by storm and the two she cats struggled before Crimsonclaw overtook the she cat.

"Here she is!" Crimsonclaw called out. "Our RogueClan runaway.."

"But where are the toms?" Darkness questioned, boldly. Crimsonclaw scoffed.

"How am I supposed to know?"

"Never mind. It won't matter. Round up the remaining LakeClan cats. Get the kits."

"No!" Mistyshine muttered as they came near the nursery.

Lightsplash stood by her, unmoving. The she cats would not submit.

Reachingbreeze, Vicefang and Drogo moved forward. Reachingbreeze was the first to strike, slashing at Lightsplash. She dodged his claws and bit, his paw, savagely resisting. As she fought on, Mistyshine did the same. Vicefang shot forward and Mistyshine slammed into the tom, taking him to the ground. She furiously attacked the tom, but could not break free to stop Drogo from slipping into the nursery.

"No!" She screamed in desperation a as Angelkit, was carried away in the jaws of Drogo. Drizzlecloud broke free of Irisstep's attempts to pin him down, and shot toward Drogo. Dropping the kit, the two struggled for power over the other.

Darkness realized there was no more time. The clan was relentless. Holding the kit under his paw, he murmured the words needed to provide the possession.

"By this offering, may the spirit of Trigon fill his chosen host. By the power of Dark and Light, do this, I say," he proclaimed before his punctured Angelkit's pelt. The she cat squealed in pain as he pulled back, leaving her to bleed out.

Coming out of their hiding spot, Sweetbreeze and Toadleap held nothing back. They raced forward and pounced onto Darkness, not expecting the resistance.

Mistyshine broke free, able to race to the center to take her Angelkit by the scruff. The Hawkwatch however, took Toadleap and Sweetbreeze quickly after. Darkness himself, took Sweetbreeze to the ground and savagely but the she cat in the throat, pulling out what he could.

The others were taken, but not killed. Darkness was very strict on when one should be killed and not killed. Standing away from the dying medicine cat, he glanced around.

"Well? Did it work?" Silence fell over the clearing. No possession appeared to occur, but a sudden scream from farther away was heard.

"Scalypaw! Heronpaw! Flickerpaw!" He called out into the evening. The sun was retreating, and darkness began to cover the land. Trotting down the shore, the apprentices had to be in the shore's life, for the marshy meadows were a clean slate.

"Dragonstone!"

Dragonstone found the three apprentices, hidden in the reeds. As he followed their scents, he was struck by a horrible feeling in his belly. Just as the apprentices emerged, he fell to the ground in pain.

He screamed once before it overcame him, he submitted to the pain and it stopped. As he rose to his paws it was clear, that Dragonstone had become Trigon. The apprentices watched in horror as the glow of the eyes occurred, and their mentor was possessed. Everything they had only heard snippets and stories of, had come true, in Dragonstone.

"I have to find Sunlight..."

Thank you for reading, voting, commenting and writing on this site.

Chapter 42

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue

eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Cardinalflight- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverleaf- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Apprentices:
Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange

eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 3 moons.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 3 moons.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 3 moons.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 2 moons.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 2 moons.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 2 moons.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 2 moons.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 2 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange. (space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138)

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Wildfire- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Russetcarve- a dark red furred tabby tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites)

Batfur- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette)

Apprentices:
Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonbliss

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

Wispkit- a dark blue furred she cat with light gray eyes.

Juniperkit- a dark gray furred tom.

Parsleykit- a fluffy gray furred she cat.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue. (beautifully-awkward)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a

white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Queens:
Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior) Kits: Troutkit (Tom), Mistkit (she cat), and Scalykit (she cat)

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X) Kits: Cragkit (tom) and Coalkit (tom)

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kit: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom), Angelkit (she cat), and Ospreykit (tom)

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Howlingpaw- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) Mentor: Cougarfur

Scalypaw- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) Mentor: Dragonstone

Kits:
Cragkit- a gray and white tabby tom with pale blue eyes. (wxrriorcatsforlife) 3 moons.

Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear

almost black. (Legomy) 3 moons.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 2 moons.

Talonkit- a silver Bengal tom with defined black stripes that give him his name. He has light golden eyes. 1 moon.

Ospreykit- a silver tom with pale blue green eyes. 1 moon.

Angelkit- a silver-blue Bengal she cat with pale gray eyes. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (EpicSavior)

RogueClan-
Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. (cocowolf12) 6 moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 6 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 6 moons.

Hawkwatch-

Leader: Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Drogo- formerly Duskfall, a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Theia- formerly Llewyn, a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

"I *said*, did it work?"

Glancing around, the remaining cats were dazed and confused. *The blood ritual doesn't require death, only blood*. Sagesmoke reminded

herself. Tired and broken, Sagesmoke saw only a matter of time before Hawk was lost forever. Day by day, Darkness took more of Hawk. Day by day, Darkness shattered more lives.

Sagesmoke could not shift her eyes from Mistyshine and her trembling kit. Although Sweetbreeze was bleeding out a few steps from Darkness, Toadleap had squirmed away and was fetching herbs in the Medicine cat den. All he could focus on was treating Angelkit.
As he emerged from the medicine cat den, he slowly moved to Mistyshine, so not to alarm the Hawkwatch.

"Check the dens!" Darkness spat before gazing over to Sweetbreeze. He sighed. "See what you did? You got blood in my fangs!"

"Go to DarkClan.."

"Been there. Done that," he muttered, before turning to the Hawkwatch. "Anything?"

Sagesmoke, Crimsonclaw, Hollyfang and the rest of the Hawkwatch remained silent. They could not provide an answer. His host was no where in sight. The tom stepped up toward Sagesmoke, gritting his teeth. He narrowed his beady eyes, feeling his frustration reach his peak. The she cat gazed away.

"You know something..."

"I don't remember!" As Sagesmoke defended herself, Darkness slammed his paw against her cheek. She fell to the ground, taking a gasp.

"Tell me!"

"*Hawk*. Hawk knows... He knew the cats. He knew which ones... Let him in, let him help us," Sagesmoke pleaded as Darkness tried to understand. He tensed before hissing irritably.

"Lies. Kill her. Her lies..." Darkness mumbled as he winced in pain. Struggling with his mind, Darkness could feel Hawk prying at the walls which kept them apart. He was clawing. And clawing. And clawing.

"GO AWAY!" Darkness roared. His was trembling now, trying to fight it. Trying to resist.

Drogo sat back. If his father could not withstand his host, than he did not deserve it. It was a battle he had to win. While this happened, he glanced over to his sister. Trapped inside a tom, was his gentle sister, suffering beyond their father's comprehension.

Hollyfang was distressed now. Anticipating a fight, all that occurred was madness. *He couldn't be serious. What in mousebrain is happening?*

In a shift of character, something changed in Darkness as he looked up with wide eyes. Frantically switching his gaze from place to place, his gaze set on Sagesmoke.

"Oh no... My love.."

"Wait, what?" Hollyfang murmured to Crimsonclaw, who shrugged and grimaced as the two cats grew close all the sudden. "This is getting weird.."

Sagesmoke broke away and looked the tom in the eyes, "Hawk?"

"It's me!" He assured her. "For now."

"How did you?"

"He's coming back," Hawk muttered. "He's too strong. I gave him too much power!"

"Hawk please! Stay," she said. As she looked deeper into his eyes, tears became to emerge.

"Kill me."

"No! No. Hawk, I love you."

"Kill me," he repeated. "Before I kill you."

Shocked and trembling, Sagesmoke stepped back as Hawk began to convulse. His followers were beyond confused, letting go of the

LakeClan Warriors, who drew to the sides of their camp. As Darkness returned, a voice split the air.

"Enough!"

With a wide smirk, Darkness rose his head and they met face to face, once more. Arching his neck, while flexing his claws. Beginning to pace back and forth he couldn't refrain from chuckling.

"I presume you saw.."

"Everything," Blackice replied. She had raced past the patrol. Past her clan, and past her fears. "Having trouble with Hawk?"

"Not as much as your sleeping habits?" Darkness snickered. "Sunlight was always a fox in the night..."

Before Darkness could finish, a tom burst into the clearing. Too fast to comprehend, Darkness taken to the ground by Dragonstone. As he returned, he didn't process anything but what he had overheard.

Biting and slashing, he spared no time as he ferociously attacked Darkness. He took Darkness' scruff in his jaws and pulled mightily, as Darkness ripped himself away. Lashing out again, Dragonstone dug his claws into his pelt, hastily trying to end his reign. From afar, Mistyshine could hardly recognize Dragonstone. He was out of his nature, taking the most dangerous tom by storm. The battle raged on, until Darkness managed to crawl away.

"How dare you..."

"Silence father. Leave now."

"Trigon?" Darkness gasped. Suddenly, his emotion changed completely. He began to laugh loudly, sending others into and awkward silence. At their father's words, his offspring sprung into action.

"Trigon," Drogo whispered bitterly, as Theia began to smile. Unaware of her father's or her brother's intentions, she began to walk to Trigon slowly.

"You look so different..."

"Drogo. It's time."

"Yes father."

"Time for what?" Blackice snapped.

"Time for Sunlight to join the reunion," Darkness replied, looking to Drogo.

"No," Blackice and Trigon said in unison. The black she cat took her place beside Trigon. She would not let Darkness' will ever manifest itself again.

"Blackice, get out!" Sprucestrike demanded. She glanced back, cursing. She was too late. Sprucestrike, Moonbliss and Bluefinch entered LakeClan and took positions, ready to defend the camp. Entering behind them were Ottertail, Rockfall, Dovepool and Leopardstar who had been found along the way. And finally, Shadow and Lostpath.

"LakeClan, attack!"

"Hawkwatch! Get out," Hollyfang grumbled. Crimsonclaw and her raced away. The rest of the dissembled Hawkwatch followed.

"Where are you going?"

"Somewhere where I kill when I wanna kill," Crimsonclaw replied. The individuals followed their desires, leaving the possession pastime.

"LakeClan, halt!" Leopardstar quickly called out.

Drogo frowned, looking to his father. Disappointment weighted him down. *What had happened? Where did my strong father go? Why is he cowering?* "You summoned me for this? To have your Warriors leave you."

Darkness scoffed, lashing his tail. No warrior dared attack him, yet he felt enemies everywhere. He turned his eyes to glance around

the LakeClan camp. Except for Sagesmoke, hanging on the edge of the camp, his Warriors had left him. Drogo sat off with Theia, a scowl upon his face.

Leopardstar stood tall and furious, her decisions pending. However, none of her Warriors moved. They now outnumbered him, but they did not move. Instead, Mistyshine simply called out to the tom once known as Dragonstone.

"Dragonstone..."

"He is gone," Trigon replied, evading her eyes. He could sense their pain. He did not belong. He was not welcome on this ground.

"Daddy," Angelkit squeaked beside her mother. As Toadleap tended to the kit, he struggled to keep her still.

"Mistyshine, you must keep her calm."

"Angelkit, please stay still," her mother pleaded trying to hold the kit close to her. Instead, Angelkit was determined to make some contact with her father.

Wriggling, away, the herbs applied were feeble as they fell off, and her wounds were opened more. Mistyshine quickly reclaimed her kit, but the damage was already done. Angelkit continued to lose more blood, as all her forces were spent on her father.

"I am sorry. I will return Dragonstone," Trigon promised, before he turned to the others.

Theia sat silently beside Drogo, but yearned to speak to Trigon. She wanted to know what had become of her son. *What had become of Osiris?*

"I see no use involving ourselves with the Clans," Darkness finally decided. He stared deeply into Blackice's eyes, searching for Sunlight. In the blue depths, he could see a traipses of her path. Remnants of her struggle was embedded in Blackice. There is only one way left, one final try, to bring forth Sunlight. "In three days time, all of us will reunite."

"Where?" Trigon snapped.

"Where this all began. Where the storm ceased, and where I made my return," he replied. "And Blackice..."

"What?"

"You will submit to Sunlight. And you will regret your resistance," he vowed before taking off past the willow.

Behind him, followed Drogo and a group of Warriors, set on seeing him out of the territory. Cougarfur, Rockfall, and Dovepool, raced after them. Ridding them and the rogues of the territory would be the first step in rehabilitating the Clans.

Trigon and Theia reunited with each other in the center of camp. As the two siblings met in their unsettled forms, Leopardstar and Sprucestrike moved to challenge the outsiders.

"Who are you two? Who are you now?" Leopardstar demanded. Before her, were once Dragonstone and Llewyn. In light of all that happened, she couldn't be sure of anyone or anything.

"We are leaving. We have caused no harm," Theia tried to assure them.

"Speak for yourself," Mistyshine muttered bitterly. Glancing to the she cat, Theia lost her breath as she noticed the still kit, below her. Trigon sensed his sister's pain and looked to Mistyshine.

"We will return your friends. For now, we have to hide," Trigon said. Looking toward Blackice, he refrained from saying anything. The two cats left.

"We must return to our camp," Sprucestrike decided. Leopardstar nodded, although the bewildered, had other things to attend to.

The beige she cat trotted rushed camp, to where their medicine cat lie. Frantically, she gently prodded the calico she cat, searching for any life remaining. Sweetbreeze however, was lost to her, her eyes, still and unmoving. *Oh Sweetbreeze...*

Approaching behind her, Ottertail met her flank with a somber expression. He wanted nothing more than to comfort the young leader, but he could not provide the words. Gently, he placed his tail across her hunches. Although she gave him a grateful expression, he knew the small gesture would not make the grief disappear.

"Ink!" Shadow called out. The tom hastily sought out the she cat, and the two immediately came together. "Why?"

"My father. My kin. I had to warn them," Ink said. He inhaled her scent before turning to Blackice, who was nearby.

"Are you insane?" Shadow was bitter. Does she have a death wish?

"Are you? Coming back here," another voice chuckled from a few tail lengths away. Shadow whipped around, immediately recognizing the voice.

"It's about time," Rainpool chuckled and she flicked her brother. He smirked before touching noses with her.

"I completely forgot about you," Shadow admitted. "Probably because I knew you were always safe here."

"Well, not today," she muttered before noticing Blackice. Realizing time with her brother would be short lived, she hastily went into conclusions. "Before you leave, come see me. There's some cats I'd like you to meet."

Watching his sister and litter mate leave, he glanced back to Blackice. With a grimace upon his face, he didn't what else to say.

"I am going to end this. I promise," she vowed to Shadow. He scoffed in disbelief, as she was a lesser warrior than many with her training rushed due to politics of the time.

"Me too. It's time we returned to how we used to live. And cease the system of power grabbing and leave the forces of nature that we have no way of knowing. I am going to take as many cats with me," Shadow declared. Despite Blackice's reluctance, he looked to her. "You will come, won't you?"

"What?"

Glancing to Ink, he left her side, for she may not appreciate his proposition. In a hushed tone Shadow expressed his thoughts. "We'll leave. To find Vulturestar."

"What!" *Is he insane?* Traipsing across the mountains and the many twolegplaces to search for a lost tom, was not how Blackice envisioned her future. She didn't envision a future.

"We can't speak about this now. We should return to StoneClan." Along with Shadow, the StoneClan patrol began their journey home in the thick of the night. To their knowledge, Darkness had vanished east and disappeared. Without Warriors or allies, Darkness would never withstand the Clans.

However, as a StoneClan warrior raced to warn MountainClan, he was not aware of the progress made at LakeClan. Hurtling over obstacles and crawling through the overgrown thicket, he continued his pace. Ever once in a few moments, he would wiggle through a lower bend of the branches or avoid a hazardous obstacle.

Airflight continued off, despite the heaviness in his lungs. He had covered a massive amount of territory in the time he was given. His lungs burned with pride as he set foot upon MountainClan territory, but he knew the journey was far from over. Climbing uphill, the struggle became oppressing. His head pained, causing a light headed rush to wash over him. Airflight regained his healthy, only after slowing.

However, the tom could not stop, or his body would completely give out, and render him useless to continue. He pushed onward, until he smelt MountainClan nearby.

In a sudden turn of events, he was completely ambushed. Claws and all, a cat had dropped from the oaks above, and was wrestling with Airflight for the upper hand. It took the MountainClan warrior a few moments, before he realized Airflight was not there to fight.

"Who are you? What is your business with MountainClan?" The ragged brown tortoiseshell tom quickly rattled off. His eyes

followed every movement and breath Airflight made.

"I was sent by Sleetstar," Airflight panted.

"I am Hiddenwatcher. Shall I take you to Flamestar?"

"Yes!" Airflight exclaimed, eagerly following the tom deeper into MountainClan territory. Near camp, the mingled scents of cats became more potent and he could hear lively chatter from afar.

"Bushwind is sharing one of his stories. We will go through quietly so we don't draw as much attention. I do not wish panic amongst my Clanmates," Hiddenwatcher explained as they went around the main entrance. Airflight caught a few glimpses of the wide and thrilled eyes, that gazed upon Bushwind. They were unmoving, and Hiddenwatcher and him gently entered the leader's den without question.

As their entrance, Flamestar rose with narrowed eyes. She immediately assumed the worst.

"What is it? Is StoneClan alright?"

"We have reason to believe the Hawkwatch is attacking LakeClan as we speak. I was sent to warn you, and request your presence at StoneClan tomorrow," Airflight addressed respectfully. Flamestar nodded in reply.

"I shall be there. For now, you should stay the night in MountainClan. It's too dangerous to go back this late at night," Flamestar insisted. Airflight didn't bother to fight with the leader.

Throughout the rest of the night, Flamestar simply announced the news of his arrival and her journey to StoneClan the next day. Hiddenwatcher was kind enough to show him to the extra nest in the warrior's den, and he lay far from the other sleeping bodies.

Although it was exciting to be visiting another Clan, Airflight could not help but wonder. He sat in deep thought, unable to rest as he remembered his mate. His unborn kits. And the she cat that killed them. Through all of his faults, all of his life, he knew that he served a righteous cause. He served a great clan and leader, and

trained a clever apprentice.

His thoughts shifted to Blackice at that moment. *Where is she now? Did she run off to LakeClan? Will she ever be alright?* Despite his pain, he knew he had to keep serving his Clan. He had to keep living. He had to watch over Blackice.

When his mind did settle, a MountainClan tom mumbled several words in his sleep. He couldn't make out any of the disturbing noises, except a single name. *Brightfire*.

Confusion struck Airflight. *How can the tom know Brightfire? She's StoneClan. He's MountainClan.*

R.I.P. ANGELKIT

Lovely and young, your loss will be an eternal despair upon your believed parents and siblings. May LightClan welcome you with splendid joy, and may WildUntilTheEnd spare the author of this book.

R.I.P. SWEETBREEZE

A beautiful she cat, many did not know that you were not any medicine cat. Breaking your vow of chastity, you fell in love with a tom and bore two daughters who will never know their mother. Silverfeather and Dovepool. May you heal hearts in LightClan.

The end is near...

Chapter 43

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Expecting Lightningstrike's kits.

Cardinalflight- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverleaf- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Apprentices:
Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 3 moons.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 3 moons.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 3 moons.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 2 moons.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 2 moons.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 2 moons.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 2 moons.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 2 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over 100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. (BlueTiger668)

Medicine cat: Blazingflame- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. (LunaPup365)

Warriors:
Wiltear- a gray and white tabby with gray eyes. He has one limp ear. (Wolfyfang)

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. (Frostycloud)

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. (Zevoras)

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. (Wolfishthoughts)

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Cloudflight- a fluffy white furred Tom with gray patches, and one covering his right eyes. He has brown-gray eyes. (dwcyrus)

Tidefur- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. He is missing one ear. (thislittlefreak)

Silentcry- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. (GamerVSReader)

Frogheart- a brown-russet furred Tom with longer fur. His ears are

curled and he has blue eyes.(TheAmericanWhovian)

Stormshade- a dark gray tabby Tom with long fur. He has one yellow eye and one blue eye. (vanessa8101)

Commitfall- a brown tortoiseshell she cat with black, tan and orange patches. She has blue-green eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Aurashine- a cream she cat with brown speckles and a brown belly and ears. She also has turquoise eyes. (Bookgirl68)

Phantomfrost- a tortoiseshell Tom with light turquoise eyes. (GamerGirl13x)

Apprentices:
Stonepaw- a gray furred Tom with faint markings like his father's. His dark blue eyes. (_crows) Mentor: Birchshiver

Hazelpaw- a fluffy brown furred she cat with amber eyes. (SeasonSnow) Mentor: Silentcry

Amberpaw- a gray furred she cat with darker shades down her legs. She has Amber eyes. (ArtisticWisdom) Mentor: Duskfall

Queens:
Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. (KittyQueenofRandom) Kits: Foxkit (she cat) and Bearkit (tom)

Kits:
Foxkit- a chestnut brown tabby she cat with Amber eyes. (Dovewing0703) 4 moons.

Bearkit- dark brown Tom with a short nub for a tail and rounder ears. He has green eyes. (Huskyclaws) 4 moons.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dawncloud- a calico-tuxedo mixed she cat with medium length fur. She has steel gray eyes and a long tail with three white rings. Her right ear is solid orange.(space_pineapple)

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. (CeRosette)

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138) Expecting Sprucestrike's kits.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes. (MillenniumWriter)

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Duskwater- a long silver furred she cat with blue eyes and a long tail. (helloilovecats)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Moltenstream- an orange she cat with black paws, ears, tail tip and a black stripe that runs along her back. She has grey eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Wildfire- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Russetcarve- a dark red furred tabby tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites)

Batfur- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette)

Apprentices:
Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She

has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonbliss

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

Wispkit- a dark blue furred she cat with light gray eyes.

Juniperkit- a dark gray furred tom.

Parsleykit- a fluffy gray furred she cat.

With gentle steps, she navigated through the growing foliage. Green and budding, the night's showers had softened the ground. Small sprouts began to peak through the soil, as the she cat crossed over them.

Morning had begun to rise. As the rays of dawn shone through the

canopy, Flamestar began her trek across the land. Passing the the great sycamore, she continued until the trees parted.

The side of the mountain was comprised of rock toward the top, whereas MountainClan resided at the bottom. Where the unbreakable rock began, the final remains of the forest soil created an earthy plateau. The plateau became the burial ground for the lost warriors of MountainClan. When Redstar passed, the buried his body where he would be the first to greet the morning, as his death prevented him from reaching dawn. When dawn's rays touched the plateau, a new day began for the Clans.

Flamestar walked to the plateau, passing Redstar's grave marked with the largest stone they could roll over. Each grave was protected by stones, so that predators and other creatures of the forest would not tarnish their bones. Among the graves, lie Redstar, Horsetail, Spiderstar, Icywind, Tinyfear, and Flamestar's most beloved, Wolfheart.

She pressed her cheek to his stone, as she had done many times before. Flamestar sat, glancing up.

"It's been long," she murmured. "I wanted to bring our sons. All of us, to see you, once they were permitted to leave camp..." Trailing off, she remembered their Apprenticeship. She had reminisced many times, but this time was different. She felt a deep pain, a grief and had slowly formed into a boiling guilt.

"I should have done more. It was just... So hard. I do not feel like a leader. Let alone, a mother. Spiderstar was strong. He was my split, and you were my heart," she whispered feebly. "Jaypaw said he came to see you. I am glad."

The silence followed, and Flamestar looked back down at the stone. "I will return..." She left this stone to meet Spiderstar's grave. Frequently visited by four of his five children, the former leader was never lonely.

"A few say, that MountainClan died with you. This just... I want to deny this! Because I have seen MountainClan. In the kits' games, in Suntail's love for Teardrop, in Cloverleaf's and Cardinalflight's

outgoings, and in Swiftfawn's determination. Still, MountainClan will never be the same without you," she exclaimed. Her mind whirled with contemplations and hopes.

"I need your help. My heart wants one thing, but my leadership requires another," she whispered. As a gust of breeze rolled down from the mountains, she heard no reply. Instead, Flamestar was filled with a strong and comforting sense of assurance.

The warming paralyzingly rays of the sun blinded Flamestar. Gently, she turned her head from the light, before trotting home.

As she made a journey downhill, she passed another MountainClan warrior, heading in the same direction. Ashfall have a curt nod of the head, before he continued uphill, his sister Echoheart and his friend Rustclaw behind him.

"Morning," Flamestar greeted with a smile. Ashfall gave a small smile, when he seemed to remember something important.

"Oh! Shadow and Ink passed through the MountainClan territory after you left. Hiddenwatcher, Eagleflight and Suntail was on the patrol and escorted them to CaveClan territory. Where they were headed," Ashfall explained throughly.

"I better get back then! Thank you," Flamestar replied. By the time Flamestar arrived back at camp, Shadow and Ink were preparing to address CaveClan.

Entering the heart of the clan, the visitors were met with its chilling atmosphere. Not only was the cave icy, but the cats of the Clan had the same feeling. Silent, cold glares were all that they received.

Blazingflame watched them uneasily, as they waited for the authority to speak. Cinderstar and Fairshade were sharing words, before they exited the leader's den. Spotting Shadow, Cinderstar walked up to the tom with respect yet determination.

"Your presence is not wished here. You must leave. I will have Warriors escort you from our territory..."

"I am sorry to intrude Cinderstar," Shadow apologized, trying to

gain a foothold in the Clan.

"You are not. My Warriors know what you stand for. CaveClan wants no part of it. Fairshade! Commitfall! Phantomfrost and Aurshine! Please escort Shadow and this she cat from the territory," Cinderstar ordered. Before they could, Shadow raised his head and spoke loudly.

"Come with us," Shadow said, before he and Ink left the cave, ushered out by the patrol. Suddenly, Shiftclaw emerged from the Warrior's den, followed by Silvershell. His urgency and appearance was alarming to the Clan.

"Wait!"

"What are you doing?" Silvershell asked, trying to catch up with him.

"I have to go."

"Shiftclaw!"

"Come with me," Shiftclaw pleaded. "You, and Stonepaw. We'll stay a family!"

Silvershell gazed back at Shiftclaw for a long time, before shaking her head. She looked back to Cinderstar, who held an indifferent expression.

"Don't come back," she whispered. Together, the patrol left, escorting Shadow, Ink and Shiftclaw away from CaveClan.

Navigating over the streams and across the patches of forests, Commitfall glanced at Phantomfrost. *Do they feel the same way?* As they came to the border, between MountainClan and CaveClan, Commitfall stopped.

"Phantomfrost..."

"What?" He asked in reply. The others, crossing the border, were a few steps ahead as this went on. Fairshade's presence kept the rogues and Clanmates quiet, until now.

"Shymask... Mom would want us to be happy," Commitfall replied. Phantomfrost narrowed his eyes in confusion, before finally realizing what she meant.

"Guys?"

"Fairshade," Commitfall whispered.

"No! You can't leave," he said in surprise.

"Half of us is rogue. Half of you is rogue," Phantomfrost put forth.

"No. I am a warrior and so are you!"

"Give Cinderstar our best wishes," Commitfall whispered before following the rogues with her brother. Together, Fairshade and Aurashine silently gazed at each other.

"Fairshade."

"You are all I have left."

"No! No, that's not true."

"Aurashine.."

"I have to go Fairshade! I couldn't live with myself if I did not watch over those two," she said. Coldly, Fairshade stepped back, and watched his sister leave.

Eventually, MountainClan, LakeClan and finally, StoneClan were all visited by Shadow and the remaining rogues of RogueClan. The proposition spurred conversations and new ideas. Perhaps the Clans were not the way to live. Maybe, there was more than the Clans of the Lake. To make their final decisions, StoneClan offered to hold a gathering.

As Sleetstar slipped out of her den, she noticed LakeClan's scent was nearing, along with MountainClan. Unfortunately, CaveClan would not show throughout the night, with stubborn hearts of stone.

"Thank you, for attending a Gathering at such short notice. As in

fairness to the memory of Llewyn and RogueClan, we shall give Shadow time to present his proposition and leave with any who wish," Sleetstar explained. As soon as she did, she slipped back to the side of her den, and watched Shadow take the middle of the camp.

Taking steps into the center of StoneClan, he shuddered at the remembrance of his early moons of life. As a young tom, he spent many moons wishing and aspiring to be a leader, speaking from the center of the hollowed clearing in the earth. He never expected his aspirations would be delivered in such a way.

"This is the time to consider all possibilities. I plan to lead anyone willing, away from here. We will find a new place to settle. We can choose when to go or leave. We can choose who we worship, and who we love. Laws and boundaries will cease. And most of all, there will be peace," his proclamation hung in the air for many moments. "In two dawns, we shall leave. Anyone may join us as soon as you wish!"

Among the MountainClan cats, Breezetalon found himself longing to explore the world of twolegs, and other forests. Making this decision, he could not leave without his mates, Beestorm and Shimmerpool. Shimmerpool, expecting kits, did not want to raise them in the harm of the forests, where prey was thinning each season and disease becoming more abundant.

Even in StoneClan, Dawncloud, Dustystripe, Duskwater and Moltenstream had the same thoughts. The cats stepped forward, acknowledging that this was the only way to leave with any remainder of dignity.

As a group assembled, a fiery tabby she cat stepped forward. Flamestar walked into the center of camp, and made her last declaration. "I am leaving MountainClan, in hopes that it will return to its prior glory, and so that it may be lead by one of the founders of these Clans. Unfortunately, Suntail, my deputy, and his family have also decided to depart. We have discussed this, and decided that if willing, Swiftfawn will take over leadership of MountainClan!"

This sent alarm and shock throughout the Clans. No one expected so many Warriors would take Shadow's claims seriously. Now, a beloved leader was leaving.

Not only did Flamestar leave, but Aspenfur took his three young kits and left, Dreampaw and Kindlepaw by his side. Bluewisp's death and fear for the rest of his offspring, sent the kin with Shadow.

The cats, and Clans were now departing after talk of no sittings of Darkness and the Shadow's final statement. As they did, Blackice was surprised to be met by her brother, out of all times.

"Shadow? Don't you need to go?"

"Come with us," Shadow pleaded. Blackice was taken aback.

"What do you mean?"

"Nothing can happen if you disappear. You don't need to stay anymore!"

"You don't understand how much I wish I could just, run away!"

"Then run away. Come with us, let us.." Shadow hesitated. "We can find father."

"Vulturestar?"

"Yes. Blackice, save yourself." This temptation was strong, and growing in Blackice's gut. In the end, she came to the only conclusion.

"I wish you luck Shadow."

Thank you for reading, voting, commenting, and writing!

Chapter 44

In the chapter ahead italicized phrases are in the mind. "Quotes" are sayings, out loud. Thank you.

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138) Expecting Sprucestrike's kits.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Wildfire- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Russetcarve- a dark red furred tabby tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites)

Batfur- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette)

Apprentices:
Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonbliss

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

Rogues:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red. (SilentlyInsane)

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. (EpicCroft)

Ink- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. (MadsHattington)

Luna- a silver furred she cat with black stripes and speckles. She had white tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. (foofoo10)

Cog- a gray-brown tabby tom with a white underbelly that comes

up to his neck and muzzle. He has green/gold eyes. (cocowolf12) 6 moons.

Dany- a small white furred she cat with gray eyes. 6 moons.

Owlkit- brown tabby Tom with white paw and underbelly. He has hazel eyes. He is deaf. (beautifully-awkward) 5 moons.

Darkness- formerly Hawk. Darkness had possessed the gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. (desadar)

Drogo- formerly Duskfall, a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. (Jeweledstories)

Theia- formerly Llewyn, a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. (XandarianLord)

Reachingbreeze- a creamy furred Tom with a black muzzle and underbelly. He has blue eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Tempestshadow- a black furred Tom with tiny white speckles, a white muzzle, and white paws. He has fierce Amber eyes. (WarriorCatFan53)

Irisstep- a charcoal Bengal furred Tom with one fierce Amber eye and one copper eye. He has short sleek fur yet it is coarse. (TheCoriolisEffect)

Hollyfang- a black furred she cat with silver dapple marks across her pelt. She has shorter legs but a longer tail. She has green eyes. (TheAmericanWhovian)

Crimsonclaw- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. (EpicCroft)

Vicefang- black furred Tom with violet eyes. (Roaring_Aragami)

Sagesmoke- a rare brown furred Siamese she cat with gentle green eyes. (Spokenwrites)

Ravenpaw- a black furred Tom with rusty brown eyes. (cocowolf12)

Trigon- formerly Dragonstone, a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Ragged and filthy, the tom paced back and forth. His throat was dry, his tongue sat as clay in his mouth. His eyes were fiery with an intense hatred that would only be quenched by death.

Lies. Lies. You told me lies.

"Silence!" *You said it was for his demise. That their deaths were justified...*

"Grow up, you belong to me now!" *I belong to no one. The only reason you're here, is because of me. I gave you the flesh and I can take it away.*

"STOP*!" Stop! Stop! Oh Hawk's hurting me! Let me cry some more!*

"CRIMSONCLAW!" He yelled. She left you, didn't she? *Not that she mattered, but she had a nice set of claws.* Crawling and traipsing over thickets, bushes, he could barely remain stable. The mocking and the words continued to fill Darkness' mind as he writhed in pain and confusion. *You know, the reason everyone left you, is because you are insane!*

"YOU! You're the only reason..." *Your name is Darkness! Since you were bore a rogue, all you have done is pushed others away. You kill. And you kill. You made me kill, and now, you want to fix your faults by killing again!*

"You chose to raise me! You found me..." *I was a kit! You manipulated me*!

"You wanted revenge I served revenge!" *I wanted my parents! I wanted my siblings back!*

"You wanted death!"

A brief period came where Hawk's insistent mockery and blames came to silence. When Darkness stopped, he heard no reply from

the tom. Delighted and sinister, he could not help but challenge the host. "I'm sorry were you saying something?"

No wonder Sunlight left...

In a violent reoccurrence, Darkness broke into a sprint and hurdled himself past the tangles and into a shallow creek. He beat his head against the creek's stone when he could not find water. When Darkness found a small puddle, deep enough for his head, he submerged himself in the water. Screaming into the water, he fought the urge to retreat and gasp air.

Ridding himself of the voices, was his only objective at the time. It was only his natural reflexes that kept him from drowning himself. *Look what you are doing to yourself!* Hawk exclaimed. Darkness pulled away from the creek, where he continued trudging onward.

Dusk was approaching as he stumbled upon StoneClan territory. As soon as he reached the last tree, he caught the scene of a patrol and noticed figures heading back to their camp.

They're gonna get you! "Shut up! If they get me, they get you!" Darkness hissed. "Even if I never get Sunlight's blood on my claws, you will always be stuck and guilty. No one will ever forgive you."

Good thing Blackice will kill us. "Are you joking?" *Someone will kill us eventually. Or I'll kill you.*

"That's nice." *Only a few more days.*

Wake up beautiful. A few days had passed. Both Hawk and Darkness kept track, as it was the night that Darkness promised would be Sunlight's last. Pain and soreness remained from the constant struggles he faced, and his pads were worn from the constant running.

Although it was morning, no rays of sun broke through the ominous clouds. Instead, a dark gray shadow was cast over the land, and the darkness foreshadowed rain to come.

Groggily, Darkness got to his feet when he heard a strange sound. "Wonder what that is..."

Probably a patrol. Darkness scoffed at Hawk's tone. Before weakly getting to his feet. Step by step, he inched out from the small stone crevice where he had slept.

"Hawk!" The call was clear. Darkness smirked as Hawk went quiet.

"Don't you want to say hello?" Darkness said as the source of the call came into view. Slowly, he made out the appearance of no other than Sagesmoke.

Stop! As Hawk yelled this, a sharp pain caused Darkness to halt in his tracks. Unfortunately, he could not resist. The she cat was distressed and completely unaware of the dangers that faced her. "Come on Hawk! Let's reunite with your darling love!"

You are going to pay. I am going to hurt you! I will kill your kits if I have to! Maybe I will save Sunlight hair for your spite you wretched piece of fox dung! "I'd like to see you try..." His trotting was audible as he caught up with the she cat. Sagesmoke whipped around, fangs and nostrils flared. She unsheathed her claws, causing a low rumble from Darkness, who gradually began to laugh.

"What no welcome?"

"Go away," she scoffed, before backing away.

"I thought you would want to say hello, to Hawk?" The offer was tempting but Sagesmoke withheld herself.

"Goodbye, Darkness," she decided, trying to leave the situation. However, Darkness had other ideas.

"No, no, no... You see, I can't get him out of my head! And you are the only one who knows how," Darkness said, teeth clenched in pain. Instead of speaking, Hawk put his efforts into making the situation as awful as possible.

"I can't do anything! After you took his flesh, you share one mind. One space. One mind where two souls dwell. Hawk cannot leave because he's the host," Sagesmoke explained.

"There has to be a way!"

"Death is the only way you two can depart. You will die. He will die."

"What about me!"

"You're not of this world Darkness. You and Sunlight must return to it..."

"WHAT WILL HAPPEN!" Darkness screamed, pouncing at her. She squirmed underneath his claws and manger to wriggle free.

"One of you will die. You have been told that you will kill Sunlight and her spirit will cease. Your realm will rule. Hers will disappear..."

"What?"

"You can't win... You won't win... I see that now..."

"But my destiny! The prophecy foretold..."

Suddenly, Sagesmoke's eyes froze and an opaque film like that of clouds, appeared. As if in deep thoughts, she stopped and stammered until Darkness shook her. "TELL ME!"

"It has changed. The hosts are too strong. The prophecies are falling through... The only way..."

"What way! Tell me, I must know," Darkness insisted. However, as Sagesmoke hesitated the film disappeared and she returned to her prior state. Holding her tongue, she watched as Darkness fell into hysteria. "TELL ME!"

Sagesmoke closed her eyes, and thought of the life she could have had. *No more*. Taking a deep breath, she opened her eyes. *Save Hawk*.

"There is no way."

Hurtling into him, she nipped at his neck as he evaded the bite. Hitching his claws on her pelt, she yelped and buck the tom off before gaining the upper hand. Wrestling for the advantage in a

viscous spin, filled with blows and agility as the two went head to head. Raised together, both were equally skilled. As she prepared to give the final blow, Darkness cried out.

"You kill me, you kill him!" Darkness declared. *Kill me Sagesmoke! Kill us! KILL US!* In hesitation, he bucked the she cat off. Love conquered.

"I won't kill you. I can't Hawk," she said in a hushed tone. Darkness chuckled, and Hawk was able to voice his wants.

"Sagesmoke, get away!" Hawk screamed with urgency, before being pulled into submission once more. As soon as Darkness regained control, he surged forward fighting Sagesmoke.

"Hawk!" Sagesmoke pleaded, and begged. Darkness screamed as Hawk took control once more. "Take back your flesh. Save those innocent cats."

"*Sagesmoke*..." As his last words to her were voiced, Darkness shot forward. In a quick slash of his claws, the she cat fell to the ground, fatally wounded. From there on out, Hawk was silent.

Examining his actions, Darkness felt rejuvenated. He once more, held the power he used to have over Hawk, and more. In a strange knowledge, Darkness knew things that occurred in Hawk's life, and he remembered Hawk's moments with Blackice. Pulling out deep and buried memories, he found Blackice's weakness.

Taking Sagesmoke's body, he dragged it toward the small pond on StoneClam territory. The blood dripped and mingled with the grasses of StoneClan territory, and he was confident, fate was on his side.

"Blood," Vinepaw whispered. Trotting toward the scent, she realized the grass below, was wet with drops of blood. It was black in the midst of the night, but it's scent was unmistakeable.

"You're right," Poisonberry whispered. She turned to Steelstrike, the only other Warrior on the patrol. "We need to investigate this. If it rains, as it did yesterday, we could lose the scent."

"I agree."

"Vinepaw, run back and inform Sleetstar! Come on Steelstrike," Poisonberry said, as they advanced, following the trail of blood. It was not long before the trail ended at the body of a she cat, a rogue.

Worried with the outcome of this, Poisonberry stared at the body in a daze. Steelstrike gazed around the pond before he easily spotted a figure, hiding near a bush. Wasting no time, he took off to the figure. In a sudden turn of events, Darkness burst out, immediately attacking the Steelstrike without care for his identity.

Rolling into the pond, Steelstrike bit Darkness' leg, holding on as the tom struggled to take his claws to the tom. Darkness in retaliation, rolled onto if the tom, pressing him into the shallow water. Fighting with water, Steelstrike let go of Darkness, who did not have such mercy.

Darkness, as he had done times over, took claws to Steelstrike's belly and raked them across. When he let go, blood flowed from the wound, and into the pond. Screaming in pain, Darkness was then taken on by Poisonberry who he had no such advantage over.

Batting her unsheathed claws across his cheek, he fell to the ground as the skilled she cat, pinned him to the ground and dug her claws into his pelt. Darkness writhed under her claws, but it was no use she as nipped and clawed at him again and again.

It was only when a loud howl split the air, that Poisonberry released her grip. Her eyes focused on something near, and coming closer. To escape this, she released the tom and fled to Steelstrike's body, trying to recover it from the pond. Her attempts were spurred by the attacker as Drogo, came into the fold. Chasing off Poisonberry, she didn't attempt to fight the two toms. Instead she took off toward camp, for reinforcements.

After sprinting back to camp, Vinepaw raced into camp and shouted the problem as soon as she found a recipient. Frantically searching for Sleetstar, would only waste time.

"Blood trail! Quick! Poisonberry and Steelstrike might need reinforcements!" Vinepaw exclaimed. Near the nursery, Twistedfoot sat with his two kits until he heard this announcement. He burst into action, running into the Warrior's den.

"What's going on?" Blackice asked.

"Blood trail. Anybody ready, let's go!" Twistedfoot ordered. Blackice took off after him, not sure of who else was following. Her fears for the past moon, were adding up to this.

"Oh LightClan..."

"What?"

"I smell our patrol."

"What patrol?" Blackice asked.

"Poisonberry, Vinepaw and Steelstrike..."

"At night!"

"We can't stop the Clan, Blackice!"

"There is a possessing, homicidal killer on the loose!"

"It's Steelstrike," Twistedfoot exclaimed as the two took over toward the pond. Twistedfoot came to a halt as Blackice crashed into the water, grabbing Steelstrike by the scruff, and pulling him to the shore.

"Steelstrike!" The tom was unresponsive, which caused Blackice to panic. "Steelstrike! Who did this!"

"We know who."

"Don't say it!" Blackice snapped. She glanced over Steelstrike's body, wounded and lifeless. His eyes, no longer held the questions and soul he once had.

Blackice had witnessed too much death. She was tired of death. Her

friend,was murdered.

"Where are you going?"

"To finish this."

Although ever fiber of Twistedfoot told him to fight the she cat's sacrifice, he let her go. There was no use in fighting it, not anymore.

It's time Blackice, let me in. Blackice ignored Sunlight's plea. *You cannot defeat him alone*. "I will try."

Looking up to the cliff, Blackice could sense his eyes on her. Rising, she turned back to Twistedfoot. His eyes faced hers, uneasy.

"Take him home. Bring our Warriors, to finish it," Blackice said. What are you doing? Do you want to die? Not only does Hawk have physical strength but with Darkness' mind. There is nothing he won't do. I can help you!

"*Sunlight*," Blackice muttered as a sharp pain made her fall to her knees. "I have been fighting you for this long. I will not give in. You do not belong here!"

This is my battle. I will take you by force. Sunlight was determined to make their last moments together, the most painful. Weak in mind, spirit and body, Blackice was in no way prepared to fight. The worst struggle of her life was ahead of her, as she resisted Sunlight.

Her eyes protruded powerful rays, and she dropped to her paws. She could feel her control, her inner being, being peeled from control. Step by step, her muscles ached. Her attempts to climb the hill slowed into a crawl.

When she reached the top of the cliff, the pads of her paws aches and her lungs were heavy with stress. Unfortunately, she came face to face with Darkness. Beside him, stood Drogo ready to obey his father's orders.

"Show yourself Trigon!" Drogo called out. Almost immediately, Trigon and Theia emerged from the forest upon the cliff, walking

toward the others.

"Finally, the family is back together," Darkness declared with a mischievous smile. He cast his glance upon his children before settling in Blackice.

"You look ragged, Sunlight," Darkness observed Blackice's appearance. Realizing Darkness' thoughts, she decided to play along. *What are you doing?*

"She was persistent. But she finally gave in," Blackice lied. Darkness frowned, before turning to Drogo.

"Finish Trigon. Give him a traitor's death," Darkness said coldly before walking toward Blackice.

"What are you doing?" Theia questioned.

"Setting things right," Trigon replied as Drogo and him circled each other, with narrowed eyes.

"By killing your brother!" Theia exclaimed, stepping in between the two.

"Stay out of this Theia," Darkness ordered.

"I was brought back for a reason. You may be the source of the Clans, but all you spur is evil. I will not let you kill Trigon, or Sunlight. Not again!" Theia said before rushing toward Darkness, taking him by storm. Theia pounced at her father, which was a feeble attempt compared to the actions and experience Darkness had, but it was unexpected. Pulling from Llewyn's mind and her own, she fought her father.

When Darkness fully realized what was happening, he managed to pin Theia to the ground before batting her with his paw. "Follow the plan! Don't be mousebrain!"

"The only mousebrain is you," Blackice said bitterly before pouncing into his back. Hitching her claws into his hunches, she managed to hold a grip, while she but down on his neck. Unable to buck her off, he fell on his back, crushing Blackice. She lost her grip and quickly

wriggled to her feet to survive assault on her bare belly.

Claws and fangs collided, as Trigon and Drogo began to fight. Their brutal battle, sent Theia into panic as what to do. Desperate to save her family, she was willing to do anything.

Evading the attacks, Darkness became less and less convinced it was Sunlight, and came to a halt to prove so. "You are a stubborn piece of fox-dung! Lying! Ruining everything!"

"That's my family's legacy," Blackice chuckled before continuing to slash at the tom. He ducked, and in doing so, grew closer ramming into Blackice. Falling back, she realized the edge of the cliff was not far away. History will repeat itself.

"NO!" Blackice and Theia shouted in unison. Theia surged in front of Blackice as Darkness' slash would have met with her flesh.

Instead of Blackice, Theia took the blow and in doing this, Darkness fell backward. "You foolish child.."

Theia dropped to her paws, blood leaving the wound, and her life following. As this happened, a large burst of light shot from the sky, down to Theia. As it came, the light left.

All that was left, was Llewyn's eyes, wide and in a state of shock. As this occurred, Trigon and Drogo dropped to their paws in pain. The lights appeared again, and took away the spirits. Remaining, were Dragonstone and Duskfall unconscious.

As Blackice would have expected anger, Darkness dropped to his paws. Suddenly, Darkness' face changed expression and his pupil's grew smaller. Frantically the tom looked around, then set his eyes on Blackice.

"Blackice, help me..."

"*Hawk*?"

"I can't. I can't.. Kill me."

"We can stop this. We already have," Blackice promised, until she

also dropped to the ground. *Listen to him. Blackice, don't let this happen. You must end Darkness. If you don't...* "What! You'll kill me? Get out."

Blackice spoke these words, and as she did, Sunlight broke away from her, struggling and screaming as she went. As soon as Sunlight left, the pain and the heavy weight was lifted.

"Get out!" Hawk demanded. As light pretended from Hawk's eyes, he screamed in pain.

Gradually, a transparent figure stepped away from him and formed into its own body. A spirit of a dark tom, with bright blue eyes. Blackice glanced to her side, and saw the ghostly figure of Sunlight, her transparent golden tabby pelt and iconic blue eyes.

The voices and the shudders were all that remained. Darkness and Sunkight stepped toward each other, before reacting the battle, as they had in history. It ended beside the cliff, where they fell off, into oblivion, together. Rushing to the edge, Blackice cast her glance over the sharp rocks below but saw nothing. All that remained was a knowledge, a strong feeling that the two had been expelled from this forest and all forests, indefinitely.

Feebly, Blackice got to her paws, and cringed as she moved her wounds. A harsh wound resided in her lower leg. Glancing up, se saw the gray furred tom, at the edge of the cedar trees. Hawk limped toward the trees, at a steady pace.

"Hawk!" The tom came to a halt, and turned his gaze to her. She was filled with comfort to see that his blue eyes, no longer belonged to Darkness.

"Blackice..."

"I forgive you," she said. Although he did not believe her, an uneasy understanding was cast upon them.

"I have to leave."

"I know."

"And Blackice," he said, and she whipped around to face him, one last time. "We can always finish your training."

Together, they laughed before it became quiet. "Goodbye Hawk."

Disappearing through the trees, Hawk would become a distant memory in the minds of those who remembered him. A legend with a notorious legacy.

"Llewyn," Dragonstone murmured, as he rose from the ground. The LakeClan warrior had only a few scratches and soreness. The only real damage was that of the mind.

Blackice turned to look at Llewyn. The rogue was beginning to choke on his own blood, as blood seeped slowly from his wound. Forming a shallow puddle, Blackice could see nothing they could do in that time. It was too deep. Too much blood had been lost. Llewyn looked despondent, as if he had lost the will to live.

"Llewyn..."

"The worst part, was watching them take RogueClan. If he would have asked, I would have came. I am not worth their lives. *Their sacrifice*," Llewyn muttered with a somber expression.

"We had such high hopes."

"We still do," Blackice insisted, sitting beside the tom, trying to comfort him in his passing moments.

"Blackice... That's your name right? I.. Just promise me. Get out of here. Go live your life. Don't fight and sacrifice yourself this dramatically. When you fall in love with someone, keep that someone. And don't take them for granted," Llewyn whispered before he laid his head back. His eyelids grew heavy and he stared back at the she cat.

"It's too late."

"Never say never."

"I didn't say never."

"I am dying, here," Llewyn croaked. "There's so much I haven't done. So much I haven't said. Will House of Cards be in LightClan? I haven't seen the next season."

"Llewyn, save him. I don't know the answers. All I know, is that you're a hero. You and Theia, together, saved me. Saved Hawk. You saved everyone. Relish and appreciate that."

"Yes. I appreciate the blood draining out of my gut," he said sarcastically spitting a bit of blood to the side. "I'm just joking. But thanks. It's good to know I'll have some legacy after I'm gone," he sighed. Before laughing again.

"What?"

"That word. *Legacy*. Everyone keeps using it like we're a dramatic epic tale that will be told to cats of all forests one day."

"Maybe you will be."

"*Llewyn*. The first multi-cultural, diverse, Egyptian, Netflix-loving, president, gay tom cat to save the Clans. Oh geez. What am I saying?"

"You're dying."

"Speaking of which," he grumbled, glaring at Blackice firmly. She frowned, stepping away and Llewyn set his head down, and closed his eyes. *Look out new world! Here I come*.

R.I.P. SAGESMOKE

Forever shall you remain one of the fondest Hawkwatch members that existed. Raised and trained with Hawk, you were one of the only cats to ever show compassion to him. For that, we thank you. And we thank you in the end, for betraying Darkness and seeking the good in Hawk, even when control seemed impossible.

May you hunt, all the days of your life. To Sagesmoke with love.

Spokenwrites Thank you for your awesome dedication this book! I could not have done it without your cheerful commentary and avid reading.

R.I.P. STEELSTRIKE

Death and murder clouded your future and in the end, you could not escape the unfortunate demise of your family. But through this, you remained an avid warrior, go StoneClan. You did your best to console your siblings. But most of all, you befriended and understood Blackice, when no one else would. Thank you.

WildUntilTheEnd Thank you for your constant dedication, friendship and love for all that you do. You are a true Warrior, wild until the end. (See what I did there!)

R.I.P. LLEWYN

I cannot put into words, the love so many have for you. An Egyptian house cat who favored the television, and watched House of Cards, and kept up with politics, you are an inspiration to cats everywhere. Big with ambition, you did your best to form a peaceful "come as you are" society. And you found beautiful love on the way. Thank you for your love, humor and endless surprises.

XandarianLord I hope I did him Justice. I can't wait to see your thoughts and alternate eulogy.

Thank you for the ride. Tune in for the final chapter and epilogue, coming as soon as possible.

Chapter 45

Allegiances:
(Shortened to provide convenience to readers. Only participating clans/groups are mentioned.)

MountainClan-

Leader: Flamestar- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. (cocowolf12)

Deputy: Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. (Graceymc96)

Medicine cats:
Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. (CeRosette)

Olivenose- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. (sunstarrules)

Warriors:
Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. (EpicCroft)

Hiddenwatcher- a brown and black tortoiseshell furred Tom with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Falconcry- a black and gray tortoiseshell with dark brown eyes. (LizBot2)

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes. He has three legs. (TuftyKat)

Breezetalon- a dark brown tabby Tom with a scar on shoulders. He has piercing yellow eyes. (BlueTiger666)

Shimmerpool- a black she cat with silver patches and dark blue

eyes. (TruthNorthRider)

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. (EpicCroft)

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. (EpicCroft)

Ashfall- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. (CinderStarleader)

Echoheart- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. (sunstarrules)

Tawnyowl- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. (LeAsheh227)

Eagleflight- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. (DanielleReeves9)

Rustclaw- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. (StarWarsHaloFanFic)

Robinwing- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. (Graceymc96)

Lightningstrike- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. (TheIceWarrior)

Cardinalflight- a dark red furred Tom with pale blue eyes. (TuftyKat)

Cloverleaf- a white furred she cat with ginger patches and green eyes. (Guild_Writer)

Apprentices:
Jaypaw- a gray-blue furred Tom with blue eyes. (GlowingFairyLights) Mentor: Lightningstrike

Queens:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. (TuftyKat) Kit: Swankit (she cat)

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber

eyes. (GamerGirl13x) Kits: Happykit (Tom), Flintkit (she cat) and Hopekit (she cat)

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. (Guild_Writer) Kits: Breezekit (she cat), Patchedkit (she cat), and Jaggedkit (tom)

Teardrop- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. (forever_ginger14) Kit: Webkit (tom)

Dawnlight- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. (TheIceWarrior) Kit: Spiritkit (she cat)

Kits:
Hopekit- a golden tabby she cat with bright Amber eyes. (Dreamspirit_Warrior) 3 moons.

Flintkit- a white she cat with orange patches, ear tips, toes and tail. She has pale gray eyes. (Spokenwrites) 3 moons.

Happykit- a Bengal cream furred Tom with bright green eyes. (CeRosette) 3 moons.

Swankit- a white and gray calico furred she cat with brown eyes. (corgi-) 2 moons.

Webkit- a short gray furred Tom with a black tipped tail and amber eyes. (ZornMurtaghson) 2 moons.

Patchedkit- a cream she cat with black and gray patches. She has blue eyes. 2 moons.

Breezekit- a gray-blue furred she cat with black tipped toes and ears. She has gray eyes. (SumaoftheRainwings) 2 moons.

Jaggedkit- a gray-blue furred tom with a brown eyes. (Ivy_Night_Rain) 2 moons.

Spiritkit- a light golden furred she cat with pale green eyes.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. (Guild_Writer) Over

100 moons old. Oldest cat in the forest.

StoneClan-

Leader: Sleetstar- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. (EpicCroft)

Deputy: Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. (lunapup365)

Medicine cat:
Snakefoot- a small, thin ginger Tom with flat broken ears. (MotherXofXFandoms)

Warriors:
Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail. (BlueTiger666)

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws. (TOTES-RANDOM4)

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes. (Ivystar138) Expecting Sprucestrike's kits.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. (beautifully-awkward)

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. (dwcyrus)

Steelstrike- ginger and white tortoiseshell Tom with large sharp features. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Bluefinch- a russet furred she cat with bright blue eyes.

(MotherXofXFandoms)

Tangledwood- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. (WhisperingWerewolf)

Deathclaw- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. (SilentlyInsane)

Blackice- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. (X_Silverfeather_X)

Swifthawk- a russet-brown furred Tom with one white paw and green eyes. (EpicCroft)

Hailstorm- a white furred Tom with grey patches and blue eyes. (countrycow22)

Hollowflame- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. (LeAsheh227)

Wildfire- a white furred Tom with orange front legs, light grey patches around the the neck and tail. He had one Amber eye and one blue eye. (Sagittarius_Rogue)

Russetcarve- a dark red furred tabby tom with brown eyes and a fluffy tail. (Spokenwrites)

Batfur- a black tabby furred she cat with Amber-yellow eyes. (CeRosette)

Apprentices:
Fernpaw- a young tortoiseshell she cat with white, gray and black patches. Her eyes are blue. (Kat124816) Mentor: Poisonberry

Dreampaw- a silver- blue long furred she cat with blue eyes. She has long whiskers. (SabrinaLeeGirl) Mentor: Moonbliss

Kindlepaw- a gray furred Tom with dark Amber eyes. (helloilovecats) Mentor: Airflight

Ivorypaw- a cream furred she cat with dark shaded ear tips, muzzle and legs. She has pale green eyes. (Ivystar138) Mentor: Dawncloud

Vinepaw- a thick brown furred tabby she cat with sharp green eyes. She has a nub for a tail. (TheCoriolisEffect) Mentor: Poisonberry

Queens:
Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. (CatGirl_And_Robin) Kits: Mudkit (tom) and Bravekit (tom)

Kits:
Mudkit- russet and brown tortoiseshell furred tom with hazel eyes. (The_Lost_Consultant) 3 moons.

Bravekit- a russet furred tabby tom with darker stripes. He has light brown eyes. (caliswaglife) 3 moons.

Vulturekit- a gray she cat with black ears, toes and tail. Her eyes are pale gray. (Jeweledstories) 3 moons.

Hoodkit- a black Bengal tom with yellow eyes. (LordPenguin117) 3 moons.

LakeClan-

Leader: Leopardstar- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. (Itroy1190)

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cats:
Toadleap- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. (Wolflyfang)

Warriors:
Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. (MadsHattington)

Drizzlecloud- a light gray tom with a white underbelly and white tail tip. He has pale blue eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd)

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes. (casualfeline)

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful. (cool-of-shades)

Ottertail- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. (LizBot2)

Cougarfur- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. (MysteryHarp)

Finchfeather- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. (Common_Conspiracy)

Winterleaf- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. (Mel_Cookiex)

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. (XandarianLord)

Lightsplash- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. (EpicSavior)

Queens:
Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail. (EpicCroft) Kit: Skykit (she cat)

Mistyshine- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. (WildUntilTheEnd) Kits: Talonkit (tom) and Ospreykit (tom)

Apprentices:
Duckpaw- a ginger and white furred Tom with amber eyes. (Wolfyfang) Mentor: Badgerclaw

Flickerpaw- a mottle gray and black furred she cat with a few ginger patches. She has blue eyes. (Fr0stfl1ght). Mentor: Finchfeather

Heronpaw- a creamish furred Tom with gentle yellow eyes. (RPBoss) Mentor: Ottertail

Howlingpaw- a thick furred black furred Tom with green eyes. He has spiked fur on his back. (OneCreativeCat) Mentor: Cougarfur

Scalypaw- a short brown furred she cat with green eyes. She has faint patchy marks. (prettykitty500) Mentor: Dragonstone

Kits:
Coalkit- a dark gray furred tom with dark blue eyes, that appear almost black. (Legomy) 3 moons.

Skykit- a silver furred she cat with white speckles that run along her legs. She has pale green-blue eyes. (foofoo10) 2 moons.

Talonkit- a silver Bengal tom with defined black stripes that give him his name. He has light golden eyes. 1 moon.

Ospreykit- a silver tom with pale blue green eyes. 1 moon.

"If wasn't your fault."

"Don't waste your words."

"Please, Blackice. He would have wanted you. He would have wanted you to be happy," Snakefoot pleaded, as he sat beside the she cat. She met Snakefoot with her eyes.

"I will be happy. Only when I find myself."

"By leaving your home?"

"By finding my father. By finding my purpose... By finding Hawk," she stressed in a weak voice. She retreated, stepping away from the tom. *He won't understand.*

"I don't understand."

Taking a breath, she continued. "I cared for you and your brother, more than you will know. But I was born into the Clans, I couldn't choose my future. I came to StoneClan, by force. Now, I am leaving it by choice."

"Who will remember?"

"Remember what?"

"Who will remember him," Snakefoot choked on his own words, glancing to Steelstrike's grave. "If you leave."

"Snakefoot," Blackice whispered, unable to comfort him. "They will remember. You will keep him here. Bluefinch will keep him here."

"Blackice. I want you to be happy. I just... What if the outside world is not what you thought it would be?"

"I am not a Warrior. I'm not a Guardian. I'm not even the chosen one. All I know, is that a there are others out there, that I belong with," she said. "Vulturestar. Hawk. Aspenfur. My brothers. We don't belong here."

"You're not an evil cat."

"Neither are they. I know that upsets you, but it is what I believe. And that's why I must leave," she replied before walking away. Snakefoot gazed back at Steelstrike's grave.

"You are leaving him."

"It does not mean I love him less," Blackice shouted back before trotting back to camp. Snakefoot remained at the grave, his head hung low.

As noon approached quickly, a few LakeClan cats made their way to StoneClan. Thanks to the galant messages and effort Airflight out into notifying the Clans, everyone was aware that the trouble was over. And when, the full moon would rise once more, they would gather to celebrate and mourn the cats lost, and how to move forward.

Duskfall lie in the StoneClan Medicine cat den, watched carefully by Tidefur and Silentcry. The two CaveClan cats had hurried to their sister's side, as she had been relinquished of Drogo's presence. Duskfall had infected scratches and scars of the time Drogo controlled her. Exhausted and fall in and out of deep sleeps, she was

in no position to leave StoneClan yet. Snakefoot expected she would make a full recovery.

Dragonstone returned with less injuries, only due to the fight with Drogo. He regained health quicker than Duskfall, and seemed rejuvenated. Unlike Hawk and Duskfall, Trigon had made it known he did not want to return to the forests of the earth, and would leave as soon as the forces of nature allowed him to leave.

Stepping out of the StoneClan's Medicine cat den, it was a strange reoccurrence to wake up in the first Clan he belonged to. However, the atmosphere had changed. Thunderstar no longer ruled tyrannically, and sent fear through his subjects. Instead, Sleetstar and Twistedfoot's leadership gave hope and encouragement, along with a fierce pride of StoneClan.

Upon seeing Sprucestrike, Dragonstone thought the tom might have harsh feelings or have retained a cold persona. To his surprise, he witnessed he tom playing with the kits of the nursery. Ever since Ivysong and Sprucestrike had kits, the tom had opened up and changed. Dragonstone could not believe his eyes, and stared in amazement.

It was short-lived as his name was called from the side of the camp. "Dragonstone!"

Whipping around, he followed the she cat's voice to see the source at the entrance of camp. Accompanied by Winterleaf, Mistyshine shot into camp racing to Dragonstone. He did the same and the mates, met. Purring and nuzzling, their reunion was a joyous one. However, Dragonstone stepped back in horror, as he called to mind what had occurred last time he saw her.

"*Angelkit*, oh LightClan..."

"It's not your fault," she insisted, trying not to lose her composure. But tears were already forming.

"She loved you, so much. She didn't know, *Dragonstone,"* Mistyshine cried. "I miss her so much!"

"Me too," he whispered. He tried to remain strong, for Mistyshine. But the loss of Angelkit was too much. Together, they sank to the ground, in grief. "Let's go home."

As the two LakeClan mates departed, Blackice returned to the StoneClan camp, surprised to see Winterleaf waiting for her. The white furred she cat smiled and looked to Blackice, who hurried to meet her.

"I'm sorry it is such short notice. But I had to say goodbye..."

"How did you know?"

"Airflight told me you might," Winterleaf replied, casting a glance to the tom, who had returned with the LakeClan cats.

"I am sorry it is this soon. But Shadow and the last cats are leaving today. The ones that didn't leave.."

"I understand," Winterleaf said with a somber expression. "Toadleap wishes you the best, and your brothers. I insisted he come, but... he's very dedicated."

"It's alright," Blackice replied quietly. Finding words was hard for both of the she cats.

"Take care of yourself."

"I will. You too. I expect you to lead LakeClan to great things," Blackice said with a gleam of pride. Winterleaf was a great she cat and an amazing friend.

"I know my kits will," Winterleaf chuckled. Blackice gasped, before chuckling.

"Tell me everything."

While Winterleaf expanded and revealed her relationship with Twanyowl, Blackice listened attentively. It was refreshing to have a conversation that didn't have life or death stakes. Across the camp, Shadow was informing everyone that it was time to say goodbye.

Aurashine, Commitfall and Phantomfrost rose to their paws, and looked to Wildfire. Commitfall and Phantomfrost bid their brother goodbye, and joined shadow. Aurashine found it harder to say goodbye. While Commitfall and Phantomfrost were inseparable, Aurshine was very close with Wildfire.

"I have to watch out for those two."

"I know," Wildfire replied. "I'll miss you. Stay safe out there."

"I love you Wildfire," Aurashine said. Saying goodbye to her brother was bitter sweet. It was hard enough to live apart, now, they may never see each other again.

"We're heading out!" As Shadow made this announcement, Wildfire looked away, trying to hide his sorrow. Aurshine broke away, following the other two away.

Blackice said goodbye to Winterleaf and joined Deathclaw, who shared the same intentions. Both siblings wanted to start anew. Both siblings wanted to find their father.

"Take care Tangledwood."

"Don't worry about me."

"I won't," Deathclaw scoffed. A mischievous chuckle followed and Tangledwood flicked his brother. Slowly, the cats broke away, heading out of StoneClan's camp and across the territory.

Hanging at the back of the group, Blackice never thought she would leave the Clans. Let alone survive so many moons. Lagging behind, a voice called her by surprise.

Again! She thought quietly. Blackice never knew she was this popular.

"Blackice!" Airflight called out.

"Airflight? Is something wrong?"

"Blackice, I never really told you," Airflight said.

"It's too late Airflight."

"I care about you. Please don't run away! Not now."

"I'm not running away!"

"Blackice," Airflight pleaded. Out of breath for once, he gazed up helplessly. "I don't know what to do. Without Cedarlily. Without you. When you go. I won't have anything..."

"You have StoneClan," Blackice tried to remind him. But it was not catching. "Come with us. Then you'll have something."

"I... Blackice..."

"Then don't stop running. That's when things get to you."

Airflight froze, her blue eyes left. She left, and things seemed to return to normal. For the new kits, it seemed as the troubles never existed. The Clans forgot. The Clans repaired. He did his best not to forget. He kept running.

Across the forest, two she cats approached the base of the Great Sycamore. Lately, visions and mystical dreams had occurred, all near the base of the Great Sycamore. Olivenose, very in tune with the spiritual world, predicted a spiritual haven would arise. MountainClan discovered theirs was at the base of the Great Sycamore.

Swiftstar remembered the tree fondly, where she, Leapinghars and Spiderstar found Raspyhowl and Feathershade, climbing up the branches, taking the squirrel by storm. At that time, they were known as Skorge, Em, Jumper and Raspypaw. *Sarah.*

"Are you ready?" Olivenose asked.

"Yes," she breathed. She laid beside the branches and looked to Olivenose who did the same. Touching her nose with the branches, she became drowsy and fell asleep.

Soon she felt herself become aware in another world. Although she could not recall having any visions or dreams of LightClan, she felt

as if the place was familiar. She realized it was the the base of a sycamore, except in the center of a field.

"Swiftfawn..."

"I'm glad it's you," she replied, looking up to face Spiderstar. He formed a small grin, before gesturing for her to follow. Across the field, she followed the tom, her friend.

"What happens now?"

"A lot of things have changed. Nothing is certain anymore," he explained.

"Where are we?"

"The field of dreams," Spiderstar chuckled at the name. "Llewyn insisted we call it this."

"I see," Swiftfawn grinned.

"We are waiting for the others." Soon other figures appeared in the distance and Spiderstar stepped in front of her. "You are about to take the vows of a leader. Many have taken them and many have received nine lives. But will you, fight for this Clan, until your death?"

"I will."

"With your first life, I give you remembrance. May you remember where you began. Remember the many who helped you in your life, and remember the mistakes that were made. Do not repeat history," Spiderstar advised. As all leaders do, she experienced pain as she received her life. A pain stung her heart, but it momentarily faded as Spiderstar did. It was more painful to part with her friend, than the actual stinging.

Next, a black furred she cat stepped forward, amber eyes a glow. "Hello Feathershade."

Sister of Spiderstar, Swiftfawn could not express how much she had missed the she cat. She felt as a mentor, almost as a mother or kin,

proud of the she cat until her last days. Her death was unfortunate beyond belief.

"For your second life, I give you the strength of decisions. May you be sure of your many decisions as leader and mentor to your clanmates. May you never stray," Feathershade declared. Next, another leader appeared. One she had not seen in many moons.

Redstar stepped forward, pained yet elegant, a huge scar across his flank was a faint reminder of the betrayal of Dapplestone, and his horrid and misfortunate death.

"I give you forgiveness. Forgive your enemies. Forgive those who fail you. As a leader, your life can be long and short. Do not waste your moons on hatred," Redstar stepped away.

"Redstar!" Her voice brought the tom to a halt.

"I am sorry. You should have been with us for many moons."

"Don't be sorry for destiny. Be glad that you are alive today, to lead it," he smiled. As he disappeared, Skystar and Tinyfear appeared.

"With this life I give you chance. May light always be on your side. I may not know you as well, but I wish you the best Swiftstar," Skystar said happily, before leaving and joining a dark striped tom to the side.

"Who is that?" Swiftfawn asked quickly, before they disappeared. Skystar looked back and grinned.

"Sharpwing. My son," Skystar explained. Swiftfawn received the next life, with little attention to the pain. She was too distracted. *Where is he? Where is Vulturestar?*

"Swiftfawn," Tinyfear shouted, trying to get her attention. Embarrassed, Tinyfear retreated. "Oops! I can't believe they let me do this. I admire you so much and I couldn't even get the words together to describe what I wanted to give you!"

"Tinyfear!" A voice reprimanded. Immediately, the MountainClan she cat shrunk, smiling feebly before giggling.

"Alright! Swiftfawn. I give you the gift of courage. Do not be afraid, as many have been. Death comes to all. Especially cats that live in this forest... *Which is kinda weird because you'd think we'd have life better after all...* Sorry. Live life. Courageous. Have tiny fear. Get it! Just be courageous. I miss you Swiftstar, but you will be the best leader!" Tinyfear said. Courage hit Swiftstar hard, but she rose and continued at the sight of a tom who had caused her so much pain.

"Leapinghare..."

"With this life, I give you compassion. Love your Clan. And love Hiddenwatcher, as I know you loved me." He did not stay for long, which made Swiftfawn weak.

"Swiftfawn," Icywind whispered. She rose to face the she cat. "It is not over. With this next life, I give you wisdom. Use it to govern, intelligently and gently. Be strong Swiftstar. There's so much more to come."

Disappearing, next Raspyhowl stepped onto the field, with a young gleam in his eyes.

"I give you patience. Wait for your time. Don't rush, as I did," Raspyhowl explained. As he pain came, Raspyhowl yearned to come up with the words. Struggling to do this, he began to tear up. "Tell my kits... Tell Cardinalflight and Cloverleaf. I heard them. And I love them."

To Swiftfawn's dismay, the tom had never met his kits. He never had the chance to say goodbye to Cloudfire. And his life, that should have been so many moons, was short lived and left a bitter grief. As the final life came, the old elder appeared, less ragged than she had ever seen him.

"Finally. I knew you had to put a word in. You could never stay quiet..."

"Hush. You need to be prepared," at his tone, she sensed Horsetail knew something might come. The other cats did not sense it, but Horsetail knew.

"What? What's wrong?"

"I will give you the strength to surpass the things to come."

"To surpass what?"

"You cannot tell anyone what I am about to tell you. Do you swear?"

"I promise. I swear. I vow. Tell me. What is to come?" As he whispered this to her, her heart became heavy. Horsetail did not say anything specific, about the Clans. But it was enough.

"You are now known as Swiftstar. Keep our Clan safe."

As she woke, Olivenose was beside her. Eager to help, she came to Swiftstar's side. The new leader rose to her paws, and looked to roots of the Sycamore. Murmuring something to herself frantically, Olivenose was strained to her it. Eventually, Swiftstar looked up and reiterated her thoughts.

"I wish they were never born."

Thank you reading, voting, commenting and writing! Its been great. Please share any questions or concerns pertaining to your characters, with me. I will let you know their status in the future, if you're not sure.

Epilogue

"That's it! That's the reason we now live in a cabin in the woods," Bushwind yawned, before curling up back in his nest. Frowning, Happy and Hope were displeased.

"What happened to Blackice? Where's Hawk! Did they hunt him down and skin him?" Happy asked before gasping at the thoughts.

"Darkness didn't seem that scary. Not scary enough to leave the Clans..."

"Hope!"

"Hope, Bushwind and I decided that the conflict, death and disease was not worth the pain. However, we still participate in gatherings, as you know. And we let your sister join MountainClan," Blitzfire explained.

"I'm not complaining. I wish we could see Fairshade and Twistedfoot more.."

"Thatswhytheresathird.."

"Sugar!" Bushwind snapped.

"Sorry I gotta go," Sugar giggled before running off inside. Bushwind turned back to the young cats.

"You'll understand when you're older."

"What about Blackice? Did she ever find Vulturestar?"

"Hush. We better go inside," Blitzfire insisted, ushering the two inside.

The light shined across the moor, in the early dawn. The fresh snow

slowly trickled down from the sky, as the morning patrols just stepped outside.

"Please, may I go on patrol?" Vulturepaw begged her father, who was just beginning to organize the patrols.

"Only if your mentor allows it."

"But dad.."

"Yes?"

"When will Sleetstar be back?"

"Probably by noon."

Many hills and stones away, Sleetstar was prowling a rabbit for sometime. Lowering into her hunter's crouch, she sank low to the ground to refrain from catching the attention of the cream furred prey. It's ears flicked up in a flurry and the rabbit held its weary glance.

When the rabbit's scent flowed to her, she enjoyed the scent until the wind slowed. Suddenly, it turned directions and now, her scent wafted toward the rabbit. Wasting no time, Sleetstar pounced racing after the rabbit. But it was too fast, the rabbit slid under her grasp and raced away.

"You always had a way with rabbits..." Sleetstar whipped around, but she saw no cat in distance and no being. Scoffing, Sleetstar stood and glanced around. In her quite frantic effort, she found nothing although the voice was clear and familiar.

Trotting off toward home, she felt a strange reoccurrence. As if she was being watched.

"Sleetpool.."

Turning around once more, she met face to faced with a scarred tom. His broad structure and face had not been seen on the land of the lake for many moons. Her breath was taken away, and she felt her eyes burn with tears.

"I knew you would return," she said before touching noses with the tom. He inhaled, thankful that she was finally in the tangible presence. It had been too long.

"Only for you."

The End

Credits, announcements and acknowledgements

Thank you for giving me the chance to entertain you! This has been a difficult yet delightful journey.

I love you all and I have enjoyed reading your lengthy comments and exasperation.

I will do my best to remain on Wattpad and continue to write, but the time of the interactive roleplay is coming to an end. If any of you would like to give it a shot, I'd be happy to finally sit on the other side and relax! You guys made me grow up, and learn the values of commitment and serving others.
Thank you.

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And a loving thanks to the rest of you who have contributed something and your names (usernames) will remain in my Wattpad heart forever...
Credits:
CeRosette
cocowolf12

TuftyKat
GamerGirl13x
Spokenwrites
lunapup365
thislittlefreak
TheAmericanWhovian
vanessa8101
Ivystar138
WildUntilTheEnd
Sagittarius_Rogue
foofoo10
desadar
SumaoftheRainwings
lovinno
XandarianLord
vanessa8101
countrycow22
Mel_cookiex
desadar
MiaEChase

This group of Wattpaders was with me even after I slowed updates and things became harder. Thanks to most of you for coming up with major plot points! Thank you for reading, voting and commenting almost every chapter!

I do miss the many Wattpaders I grew to know and love, that were our regulars up until the second book. I hope they are living life to the fullest, as for the rest of you.